

Breonna Taylor case

Civil rights charges are filed against four Louisville police officers. **News, Page 3**

China sends message

China's missiles hit the seas near Taiwan in the wake of Pelosi's visit. **News, Page 4**

Monkeypox emergency

Federal government declares monkeypox a public health emergency. **News, Page 5**

A hot topic

Partly sunny, humid; some p.m. showers; high 93. **Living, Page 8**

Hartford Courant

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NEWTOWN SCHOOL SHOOTING

Jones ordered to pay \$4M

RECORDS SOUGHT IN CAPITOL PROBE: An attorney for the parents of a child killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre who are suing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones over his false claims about the attack said on Thursday that the U.S. House Jan. 6 select committee has requested two years' worth of records from Jones' phone. **Connecticut, Page 1**



Jury: Conspiracy theorist owes parents damages over repeated public claims that attack was hoax

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A Texas jury on Thursday ordered conspiracy theorist Alex Jones to pay more than \$4 million in compensatory damages to the parents of

a 6-year-old boy who was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, marking the first time the Infowars host has been held financially liable for repeatedly claiming the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history was a hoax. The Austin jury must still decide

Alex Jones, left, during his trial in Austin on Wednesday. Jones is still on the hook for punitive damages in addition to the \$4 million he now owes parents thanks to a ruling Thursday. **BRIANA SANCHEZ/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN**

The Brittney Griner verdict and sentence leave us to wait and hope, and her role as geopolitical pawn in a Russian prison makes her release that much more complicated



WNBA star Brittney Griner holds a photograph while standing in a cage at a courtroom for her hearing near Moscow on Thursday. Griner was found guilty of drug possession, and the prospect of getting her back to the United States turned even more grim. **EVGENIA NOVOZHENINA/AP**

US SUPREME COURT

Police union appeals reform

State cops challenge public disclosure of disciplinary records

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

The state police union is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to set aside part of the state's sweeping police accountability reforms that make some police personnel records subject to public disclosure.

The union's appeal, which has lost twice so far in the federal courts, focuses primarily on public disclosure of internal affairs investigations that result in findings of "exonerated, unfounded, or not sustained."

The union contract, ratified by the state legislature in 2019, exempts unsubstantiated complaints from disclosure under state freedom of information law.

In its appeal, the union argues that the provision in the reform law that permits disclosure violates the U.S. Constitution's contract clause, which prohibits states from passing laws that invalidate contracts without a compelling public interest.

The state has so far turned back union appeals in the U.S. District and Circuit Court by arguing the state did have a compelling reason to nullify the contract language: the public demand for police accountability in the wake of the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Turn to Appeal, Page 3

WHAT'S NEXT? The Supreme Court agrees to hear few appeals, and a decision is likely months away. So far, the state has turned back appeals in U.S. district and circuit courts by arguing that lawmakers had the public interest in mind when reforms were made after George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis cops.

THE NIGHTMARE THAT DOESN'T END

Brittney Griner stared blankly from behind white bars as the ruling was translated for her. Her eyes were empty, and when they did shift focus, it was only downward.

There was resignation in her eyes and lack of expression, or perhaps Griner was trying to will herself somewhere else. For those who have viewed the video, it was a window into someone else's unimaginable nightmare.

Griner, 31, was sentenced to nine years in a Russian penal colony, and experts say such places are as bad as the term sounds. Experts on these processes also say Thursday's ruling from judge Anna Sotnikova of the Khimki city court was expected, and is the end of the beginning. One of U.S. basketball's biggest stars will remain where



INSIDE: Basketball star Brittney Griner was convicted on Thursday in Russia of drug possession and smuggling and was sentenced to nine years behind bars. **Sports, Page 1**

she is for as long as it takes the U.S. and Russian governments to agree to the price for her release. With the "trial" over, those negotiations can begin.

That's no reason to be optimistic, however. Prisoner exchanges are not done easily, and in cases such as these, those of a certain age likely remember the old, very American impulse to *do something* now only works against the cause of releasing her.

Griner's detainment, trial, conviction and sentencing for packing vaping cartridges containing hashish oil make no sense to any reasonable person. But if we have learned anything as Vladimir Putin's Russian forces pound Ukraine these last six months, it's that neither Griner, nor other Americans held for a longer time in Russia, are in the

Turn to Griner, Page 3

'Inordinate amount' of motorcycle deaths hit state, nation

By Ed Stannard
Hartford Courant

On Friday, the 82nd Sturgis Motorcycle Rally begins in South Dakota, the largest rally in the country, lasting 10 days. It attracted more than 500,000 people last year

and safety is a very clear component.

But while motorcycle riding is as popular as ever, deaths and injuries of motorcyclists also are rising, and both can be devastating, according to Dr. Jonathan Gates, chief of trauma surgery at Hartford

HealthCare.

And he doesn't blame any rally for the increase. It's the riders on the highways and other roads that are at risk.

"We are seeing an increase in fatalities and injuries from motorcycles; there's no question about it,"

he said. There have been four fatal motorcycle crashes in Connecticut since last week, in Goshen, Shelton, North Haven and Hamden.

And while fatalities are a major concern, Gates is also worried about the number of injuries that leave people with missing limbs,

traumatic brain injuries and other devastating, long-lasting problems.

"They are impaired and they may be impaired for a lifetime, both mentally and physically," he said.

Turn to Deaths, Page 3

Teen charged in toddler's death pleads not guilty

An 18-year-old charged in connection to the death of a 3-year-old boy during a drive-by shooting in Hartford last year has entered a plea of not guilty. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Bronin calls recent Hartford gun violence targeted, retaliatory

By Mike Mavredakis
Hartford Courant

Many of the recent instances of gun violence in the city of Hartford have been connected, targeted and group-related incidents, according to Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin.

Bronin, at a press conference Thursday, said the groups have differing levels of structure and formality but are "geographically

based and predominantly in the North End."

"It's important to recognize that what we're seeing right now is back and forth acts of violence that are part of a retaliatory cycle and that they are targeted," Bronin said.

Police have several strong leads in the recent cases, he said.

Police Chief Jason Thody said that the involved parties are "well-known" to the

department and police are working with other agencies like the Department of Corrections, FBI, DEA and parole and probation officers to help bring them to justice.

Thody said they are applying "a tremendous amount of pressure" to stop the cycle. Bronin said they are willing to arrest involved parties on other unrelated offenses or put their parole and probation in violation as a means of getting them off the street

to stop future violence.

"Sometimes we have to be creative when we know individuals are involved in this type of activity and we have to find ways to take them off the streets for a period of time," Thody said.

They declined to discuss the specific incidents involved, but Bronin did confirm one of those acts of violence was the shooting of a Hartford teenager Wednesday night. He said it was a

targeted shooting.

Investigations into the violence are active and ongoing, Thody said. They are working to gather evidence to make cases that can lead to arrests and prosecutions, Bronin said.

Bronin highlighted the work of community groups, like the Compass Youth Collaborative, to help prevent violence.

Jacquelyn Santiago Nazario, CEO of Compass

Youth Collaborative, asked the community to reach out to them with any referrals of people in need at the press conference.

"Pick up the phone and give us a call so that we might be able to intervene and provide some support to these kids that need it most," Santiago Nazario said.

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Jones

from Page 1

tion of emotional distress. Jones' attorney asked the jury to limit damages to \$8 — one dollar for each of the compensation charges they are considering — and Jones himself said any award over \$2 million "would sink us."

It likely won't be the last judgment against Jones — who was not in the courtroom when the jury announced its decision to award \$4.11 million — over his claims that the attack was staged in the interests of increasing gun controls. A Connecticut judge has ruled against him in a similar lawsuit brought by other victims' families and an FBI agent who worked on the case.

The Texas award could set a marker for other cases against Jones and underlines the financial threat he's facing. It also raises new questions about the ability of Infowars — which has been banned from YouTube, Spotify and Twitter for hate speech — to continue operating, although the company's finances remain unclear.

Jones, who has portrayed the lawsuit as an attack on his First Amendment rights, conceded during the trial that the attack was "100% real" and that he was wrong to have lied about it. But Heslin and Lewis



Judge Maya Guerra Gamble on Wednesday looks at a photo illustration of herself that Infowars has been showing on air during trial at the Travis County Courthouse in Austin. Alex Jones was ordered by a jury Thursday to pay more than \$4 million to parents in the Sandy Hook school shooting, which he claimed was a hoax. **BRIANA SANCHEZ/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN**

told jurors that an apology wouldn't suffice and called on them to make Jones pay for the years of suffering he has put them and other Sandy Hook families through.

The parents testified Tuesday about how they've endured a decade of trauma, inflicted first by the murder

of their son and what followed: gun shots fired at a home, online and phone threats, and harassment on the street by strangers. They said the threats and harassment were all fueled by Jones and his conspiracy theory spread to his followers via his website Infowars.

A forensic psychiatrist

testified that the parents suffer from "complex post-traumatic stress disorder" inflicted by ongoing trauma, similar to what might be experienced by a soldier at war or a child abuse victim.

At one point in her testimony, Lewis looked directly at Jones, who was sitting

barely 10 feet away.

"It seems so incredible to me that we have to do this — that we have to implore you, to punish you — to get you to stop lying," Lewis told Jones.

Jones was the only witness to testify in his defense. And he came under withering attack

from the plaintiffs attorneys under cross-examination, as they reviewed Jones' own video claims about Sandy Hook over the years, and accused him of lying and trying to hide evidence, including text messages and emails about the attack. It also included internal emails sent by an Infowars employee that said "this Sandy Hook stuff is killing us."

At one point, Jones was told that his attorneys had mistakenly sent Mark Bankston, who is representing Heslin and Lewis, the last two years' worth of texts from Jones' cellphone. Bankston said in court Thursday that the U.S. House Jan. 6 committee investigating the 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol has requested the records and that he intends to comply.

And shortly after Jones declared "I don't use email," Jones was shown one that came from his address, and another one from an Infowars business officer telling Jones that the company had earned \$800,000 gross in selling its products in a single day, which would amount to nearly \$300 million in a year.

Jones' media company Free Speech Systems, which is Infowars' parent company, filed for bankruptcy during the two-week trial.

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LOTTERY

Thursday, August 4

PLAY3 DAY

PLAY4 DAY

4 7 1 WB: 7 9 6 2 5 WB: 3
The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

PLAY4 NIGHT

7 8 9 WB: 5

LUCKY FOR LIFE

POWERBALL

1 17 25 27 42 LB: 10

9 21 56 57 66 PB: 11 PP: 2

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1M

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$36M

Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$20M

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FROM PAGE ONE



Attorney General Merrick Garland, accompanied by Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, said Thursday that "Breonna Taylor should be alive today." **MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP**

Feds charge 4 cops in Breonna Taylor raid

By Dylan Lovan

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The federal government filed civil rights charges Thursday against four Louisville police officers over the drug raid that led to the death of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman whose fatal shooting helped fuel the racial justice protests that rocked the nation in 2020.

The charges are another effort to hold law enforcement accountable for the killing of the 26-year-old medical worker after one of the officers was acquitted of state charges earlier this year.

"Breonna Taylor should be alive today," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in announcing the charges, which include unlawful conspiracy, use of force and obstruction of justice.

The charges named former Officers Joshua Jaynes and Brett Hankison, along with current Officers Kelly Goodlett and Sgt. Kyle Meany. Most of the charges stem from the faulty drug warrant used to search Taylor's home.

Hankison was the only officer charged Thursday who was on the scene that night. Louisville police said they are seeking to fire Goodlett and Meany.

Taylor was shot to death by officers who knocked down her door while executing a search warrant. Taylor's boyfriend fired

a shot that hit one of the officers as they came through the door, and they returned fire, striking Taylor multiple times.

Local activists and members of Taylor's family celebrated the charges and thanked federal officials.

"This is a day when Black women saw equal justice in America," family lawyer Benjamin Crump said.

Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, said she has waited nearly 2½ years for police to be held accountable. "Today's overdue, but it still hurts," she said. "You all (are) learning today that we're not crazy."

The Justice Department is also conducting a non-criminal investigation of the Louisville Police Department, announced last year, that is probing whether the department has a pattern of using excessive force and conducting unreasonable search and seizures.

In the protests of 2020, Taylor's name was often shouted along with that of George Floyd, who was killed less than three months after Taylor by a Minneapolis police officer in a videotaped encounter that shocked the nation.

Protesters who took to the streets over months in Louisville were especially critical of Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who presented



Taylor

only wanton endangerment charges against Hankison for a grand jury to consider in 2020. Members of the grand jury later came forward to complain that Cameron's office had steered them away from charges for the other officers involved in the raid.

"Thank God that Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron did not get the last word in regard to justice for Breonna Taylor," Crump said Thursday.

Cameron, a Republican running for governor next year, said in announcing the indictment against Hankison in September 2020 that he would leave "issues regarding potential civil rights violations" to federal officials to investigate.

Garland said the officers who were at Taylor's home just after midnight March 13, 2020, "were not involved in the drafting of the warrant, and were unaware of the false and misleading statements."

Hankison was indicted on two deprivation-of-rights charges alleging he used excessive force when he retreated from Taylor's door, turned a corner and fired 10 shots into the side of her two-bedroom apartment. Bullets flew into a neighbor's apartment, nearly

striking one man. He was acquitted by a jury of state charges earlier this year in Louisville.

A separate indictment said Jaynes and Meany both knew the warrant used to search Taylor's home had information that was "false, misleading and out of date." Both are charged with conspiracy and deprivation of rights.

Meany ran a police unit that focused on aggressive drug investigations. Police served five warrants the night of the Taylor raid, four of them in a concentrated area where drug activity was suspected, and the fifth at Taylor's apartment nearly 10 miles away.

The warrant for Taylor's house alleged that she was receiving packages for a suspected drug dealer who was a former boyfriend.

The warrant, signed by Jaynes and approved by Meany, said Jaynes had confirmed with the postal service that packages for the ex-boyfriend, Jamarcus Glover, were going to the apartment. Investigators later learned that Jaynes had not confirmed that with the postal inspector.

Jaynes was fired in January 2021 for violating department standards in the preparation of a search warrant execution and for being "untruthful" in the Taylor warrant.

Deaths

from Page 1

With 8.3 million motorcycles registered, there were 5,579 deaths among motorcyclists, 94% riders and 6% passengers, in the U.S. in 2020, an 11% increase from 2019 and the most since record-keeping began in 1975, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. Injuries totaled 82,528, a 2% decrease.

Further, the number of motorcycle deaths was 29 times the number for cars, per mile traveled, in 2019, accounting for 14% of all motor vehicle crash fatalities in 2020, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The numbers do not reflect that safety is a prominent element for most riders. Motorcycle riding classes abound in Connecticut, where safety information is crucial, including at community colleges. And as Mike's Famous® H-D Riding Academy in New London points out in its online explanation of requirements, "To receive a motorcycle endorsement from the State of Connecticut you must successfully complete all of the requirements of the State of CT, Motorcycle Safety Foundation" and for students there, also the academy class.

But Gates pointed out that motorcycles account for "only 3 percent of motor vehicles on the road ... so it's an inordinate amount of fatalities."

Quotewizard reported that helmet use declined from 71 to 68% last year. The NHTSA reported: "In States without universal helmet laws, 57% of motorcyclists killed in 2020 were not wearing helmets, as compared to 11% in States with universal helmet laws."

Connecticut requires a helmet only for riders under 18.

"Anything is fair game" when it comes to motorcycle crash injuries: neck, spine, head, intestinal injuries, Gates said.

"The energies are so high that the body is not designed well to withstand that kind of injury," he said.

"I would say we see more of the pelvic fractures and extremity injuries, but also some of the more extreme head injuries from motorcycle crashes as well," he said.

"We do all we can with head injuries to prevent what we call secondary insult," Gates said. "It's worsening bleeding that we want to prevent" inside the skull.

Otherwise, "someone may not be as intellectually equivalent as they were before the crash," he said.

Rider impairment caused by alcohol or other drugs can be a factor in motorcycle crashes. Hartford HealthCare's Not One More campaign seeks to have drivers pledge to know their limits and not have "one more" drink or joint. So far, 849 people have taken the pledge.

"Connecticut has the fourth-highest per capita impaired fatalities" in the country," Gates said.

He said all types of people ride motorcycles, including a fellow trauma surgeon who sees the injuries crashes can cause.

"Especially in seeing these all the time, you've got to wonder, how do you come to grips with that?" Gates said. "The power-to-weight ratio is very high and there's no protection for the rider."

Some riders cruise as fast as 100 mph and it's the "abrupt stop" that causes the bodily injury, Gates said. "If they are weaving between vehicles, that puts them more at risk as well," he said.

Quotewizard.com found that alcohol, climate and helmet use determined which states were the most dangerous for motorcyclists. Connecticut ranked 22nd, with 58 motorcycle fatalities alcohol, climate and helmet use in 2020, and a 26% increase from 2019.

However, Connecticut ranked fifth among the states in the colder, northern half of the country, where motorcycle riding drops off in the winter.

Motorcyclists are more likely to have drunk alcohol than other drivers — 27% vs. 23% for car drivers and 19% for drivers of light trucks, according to the NHTSA — and 41% of motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes were impaired.

Gates speculated that the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the early lockdown phase, may contribute to the increase in crashes, but said the trend began before the coronavirus arrived.

"Those motorcycle crashes and motor vehicle crashes have really continued in that accelerated pace that we saw after the first and second wave of COVID," he said.

"I think it's multifactorial," he said. "When people were limited in their social actions, it was difficult. People are social animals. When those restrictions were lifted, people were anxious to get back to their normal lives."

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Griner

from Page 1

hands of reasonable people. The wishes of the entire world did not matter when Putin chose to wage war, and neither U.S. nor world opinion matter in Russia now.

"Today's verdict and sentencing is unjustified and unfortunate but not unexpected and Brittney Griner remains wrongly detained," read a joint statement from NBA commissioner Adam Silver and WNBA commissioner Cathy Englebert. "The WNBA and NBA's commitment to her safe return has not wavered and it is our hope that we are near the end of this process of finally bringing BG home to the United States."

Griner's Phoenix Mercury teammates were at the Mohegan Sun getting ready for their game against the Connecticut Sun on Thursday night. They made their feelings known via social media and the organization issued a statement.

"While we knew it was never the legal process that was going to bring our friend home, today's verdict is a sobering milestone in the 168-day nightmare being endured by our sister, BG," it read. "We remain heartbroken for her, as we have every day for nearly six months. We remain grateful to and confident in the public servants working every day to return her to her family and us. We remain faithful the [Biden] Administration will do what it takes to end her wrongful detention. We are inspired every day by BG's strength and we are steadfastly committed to keeping her top-of-mind publicly until she is safely back on American soil. We will not allow her to be forgotten. We are BG."

Several U.S. political leaders, including President Joe Biden, weighed in with a similar sentiment. Whether you are a fan of Griner, or whether you agree or disapprove of her past actions and statements, there shouldn't be a question but that the U.S. government must do all it can to

bring Griner, and other Americans held in Russia, home. But doing all it can doesn't seem like enough to achieve this soon, given the leverage.

Griner made a dangerous choice in February when she packed her bag and headed to Russia to play for UMMC Ekaterinburg, which paid her more than she made in the WNBA. Yes, basketball is loved and it's big business there, too. But Arthur H. House, an adjunct professor at UConn who has worked for the National Security Council and for the director of National Intelligence, wrote in an Op Ed piece for the Courant a chilling reminder that when an American citizen travels abroad, U.S. laws and rights do not follow. Griner did not take the overabundance of caution that was necessary, especially with Russia's move into Ukraine pending and relations with the U.S. strained.

She plead guilty, apologized, insisted she had no intent to break the law, that she was using

the hashish oil for pain, but those pleas fell on deaf ears in a Russian court.

Now, as she sits helplessly as a geopolitical pawn in a Russian prison, the more there is outrage and outcry for her release, the more "valuable" she becomes to Putin and the more leverage he gains, as House also pointed out.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said he has made a "significant proposal" to Russia for Griner's release. There have been numerous reports this includes releasing convicted arms dealer Viktor Bout, a terrible thing to have to do, for the release of Griner and Paul Whalen. There is no telling if Russia will even accept that.

So we're left to watch, for some of us to be haunted by Brittney Griner's blank stare. And we are left to wait and hope for the day she is released, because at this moment waiting and hoping is still all we can do.

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Appeal

from Page 1

In ruling against the first union appeal two years ago, U.S. District Court Judge Charles Haight wrote that national outrage over police tactics in the Floyd death created a "legitimate public purpose" for enacting a law that amended the union contract.

In affirming Haight, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit wrote: "As we have noted, making it easier for the public to access police records was a reasonable response to the 'genuine crisis' in public confidence facing American cities and States

in the weeks and months following the nationwide protests that Floyd's murder spurred."

"Here, the District Court concluded that the (FOI) Act served two legitimate public purposes: ensuring the transparency and accountability of law enforcement and promoting 'FOIA's strong legislative policy in favor of the open conduct of government and free public access to government records. We agree."

The strong public reaction to Floyd's murder made clear that the legislature was responding to an important and pressing social ill," the ruling said.

"Because there is no indication

that the Connecticut legislature acted self-servingly in passing the Act at issue in this case, we defer to its determination that the law was reasonable and necessary to address issues relating to police misconduct or accountability. The CSPU has not provided any compelling evidence that contradicts the determination," the judge wrote.

The union argues that the language exempting unsubstantiated complaints from disclosure was negotiated into its contract at a time when baseless complaints against police were on the rise. It said the exemption was written to protect exonerated officers and their families from harassment.

The union also is challenging the department's failure to comply, in the wake of the reform laws, with contract language requiring troopers receive notice when a public records request has been made for their disciplinary files.

The union argues in its appeal that the Supreme Court should take the case to resolve conflicts among three federal appeals courts on questions about state interference in public union contacts.

The Supreme Court agrees to hear few of the appeals brought to it. A decision on taking the union appeal is likely months away.

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WORLD & NATION

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How CIA targeted al-Qaida's leader

Officials figured on return to Kabul after US forces pulled out

By Julian E. Barnes and Eric Schmitt

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Intelligence officers made a crucial discovery this spring after tracking Ayman al-Zawahri, the leader of al-Qaida, to Kabul, Afghanistan: He liked to read alone on the balcony of his safe house early in the morning.

Analysts search for that kind of pattern-of-life intelligence, any habit the CIA can exploit. In al-Zawahri's case, his long balcony visits gave the agency an opportunity for a clear missile shot that could avoid collateral damage.

The hunt for al-Zawahri, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, stretches back to before the Sept. 11 attacks. The CIA continued to search for him as he rose to the top of al-Qaida after the death of Osama bin Laden and after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan last year.

Soon after the United States left Kabul, the CIA sharpened its efforts to find al-Zawahri, convinced he would try to return to Afghanistan. Senior officials had told the White House they would be able to maintain and build informant networks inside the country from afar and that the United States would not be blind to terrorism threats there. For the agency, finding al-Zawahri would be a key test of that assertion.

This article is based on interviews with current and former American and other officials, independent analysts who have studied the decadeslong hunt and others briefed on the events leading up to the week-



Taliban fighters march at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. The U.S. spent decades searching for al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri and his habits at his Kabul safe house offered an opportunity to strike. JIM HUYLEBROEK/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021

end strike. Most spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive intelligence used to find al-Zawahri.

For years, al-Zawahri was thought to be hiding in the border area of Pakistan, where many al-Qaida and Taliban leaders took refuge after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001. He was wanted in connection with the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, and the CIA had tracked a network of people who intelligence officials thought supported him.

The examination of that network intensified with the exit by the U.S. from Afghanistan last year and a belief among some intelligence officials that senior leaders of al-Qaida would be tempted to return.

The hunch proved right.

The agency found out that al-Zawahri's family had returned to a safe house in Kabul. Although the family tried to ensure they were not being watched and to keep al-Zawahri's location secret, intelligence agencies soon learned he, too, had returned to Afghanistan.

"There was a renewed effort to figure out where he was," said Mick Mulroy, a former CIA officer. "The one good thing that might have come out of withdrawing from Afghanistan is that certain high-level terrorist figures would then think it is safe for them to be there."

The safe house was owned by an aide to senior officials in the Haqqani network, a battle-hardened and violent wing of the Taliban government, and it was in an area controlled by the group. Senior Taliban lead-

ers occasionally met at the house, but American officials do not know how many knew that the Haqqanis were hiding al-Zawahri.

If some senior Taliban officials did not know that the Haqqanis had allowed al-Zawahri to return, his killing could drive a wedge between the groups, independent analysts and others briefed on the events said.

"The Haqqanis have a very long relationship with al-Qaida going back to the mujahedeen days," said Dan Hoffman, a former CIA officer. "They provide al-Qaida with a lot of tactical support that they need."

Once the safe house was located, the CIA followed the playbook it wrote during the hunt for bin Laden. The agency built a model of the site and sought to learn everything about it.

Analysts eventually identified a figure who lingered on the balcony reading, but never left the house, as al-Zawahri.

U.S. officials quickly decided to target him, but the location of the house posed problems. It was in the Sherpur neighborhood of Kabul, an urban area of closely spaced houses.

On April 1, top intelligence officials briefed national security officials at the White House about the safe house and how they had tracked al-Zawahri. After the meeting, the CIA and other intelligence agencies worked to learn more about what they called al-Zawahri's pattern of life.

One key insight was that he was never seen leaving the house and only seemed to get fresh air by standing on a balcony on an upper floor. He remained on the balcony for extended periods, which gave the CIA a good chance to target him.

Al-Zawahri continued to work at the safe house, producing videos to be distributed to al-Qaida's network.

A senior administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive decisions leading to the strike, said the intelligence presented to the White House had been repeatedly vetted, including by a team of independent analysts tasked with identifying everyone who was staying at the safe house.

As options for a strike were developed, intelligence officials examined what kind of missile could be fired at al-Zawahri without causing major damage to the safe house or the neighborhood around it. They ultimately decided on a form of Hellfire missile designed to kill a single person.

William Burns, the CIA director, and other intelligence officials briefed President Joe Biden on July 1, this time with the model of the safe house, the senior official said.

At that meeting, Biden asked about the possibility of collateral damage, prodding Burns to take him through the steps of how officers had found al-Zawahri and confirmed his information, and their plans to kill him.

Biden ordered a series of analyses. The White House asked the National Counterterrorism Center to provide an independent assessment on the impact of al-Zawahri's removal, both in Afghanistan and to the network worldwide, said a senior intelligence official. The president also asked about the possible risks to Mark Frerichs, an American hostage held by the Haqqanis.

In June and July, officials met several times in the Situation Room to discuss the intelligence and examine the potential ramifications.

The CIA planned to use its own drones. Because it was using its own assets, few Pentagon officials were brought into the planning for the strike, and many senior military officials learned about it only shortly before the White House announcement, an official said.

On July 25, Biden, satisfied with the plan, authorized the CIA to conduct the airstrike when the opportunity presented itself. Sunday morning in Kabul, it did. A drone flown by the CIA found al-Zawahri on his balcony. The agency operatives fired two missiles, ending a hunt spanning more than two decades.



Friends and relatives of Azov Regiment members protest Thursday in Kyiv, Ukraine, over the killing of Ukrainian POWs in a Russian-controlled prison July 29. DIMITAR DILKOFF/GETTY-AFP

WAR IN UKRAINE

US expects Russia to 'frame' Ukrainians for POW killings

By Aamer Madhani and Edith M. Lederer

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House on Thursday said new intelligence suggests Russia is working to fabricate evidence concerning last week's deadly strike on a prison housing prisoners of war in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine.

U.S. intelligence officials have determined that Russia is looking to plant false evidence to make it appear that Ukrainian forces were responsible for the July 29 attack on Olenivka Prison that left 53 dead and wounded dozens more, according to White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.

Separately, a Western government official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, said explosive experts who have reviewed photos of the prison released by the Russians following the incident have determined that the destruction wasn't likely caused by "a high-explosive strike from the outside."

and that it was "much more likely to be incendiary and from inside the location."

"We anticipate that Russian officials will try to frame the Ukrainian Armed Forces in anticipation of journalists and potential investigators visiting the site of the attack," Kirby said.

Russia has claimed that Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic.

The Ukrainian military denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka. The intelligence arm of the Ukrainian defense ministry claimed in a statement Wednesday to have evidence that local Kremlin-backed separatists colluded with the Russian FSB, the KGB's main successor agency, and mercenary group Wagner to mine the barrack before "using a flammable substance, which led to the rapid spread of fire in the room."

Kirby said the classified intelligence determination shows that Russian officials

might even plant ammunition from medium-ranged High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, as evidence that the systems provided by the U.S. to Ukraine were used in the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Thursday angrily dismissed the U.S. officials' claims about Russia fabricating evidence.

"It has been absolutely proven and it's absolutely obvious what happened in Olenivka," Peskov said Thursday in a conference call with reporters. "Ukrainian prisoners of war were killed by the Ukrainian military."

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday he is appointing a fact-finding mission in response to requests from Russia and Ukraine to investigate the killings at the prison.

The Ukrainian POWs included troops captured during the fall of Mariupol. Their resistance during a relentless Russian bombardment became a symbol of Ukrainian defiance against Russia's aggression.

China's missiles hit seas near Taiwan following Pelosi visit

By Chris Buckley and Amy Chang Chien

The New York Times

At least 11 Chinese missiles struck seas north, south and east of Taiwan on Thursday, less than 24 hours after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi celebrated the island as a bulwark of democracy next to autocratic China. The People's Liberation Army declared that its missiles "all precisely hit their targets," even as Japan said five landed in its waters.

The Chinese military called the exercises a prelude to a bigger show of force intended to punish the island for a visit by Pelosi that challenged Beijing's claims to Taiwan. The drills, jostling ever closer to Taiwan and expected to run 72 hours, will also give Chinese forces valuable practice should they one day be ordered to encircle and attack the island.

China's top leader, Xi Jinping, has said he hopes to eventually unify Taiwan and China through peaceful steps, as part of his vision for a "rejuvenated" and powerful nation. But like his predecessors, he has not ruled out force, and China's military buildup has reached a point where some commanders and analysts think an invasion is an increasingly plausible, though still highly risky, scenario.

Even if imminent conflict is unlikely, the exercises are putting the region on edge. And tensions could dangerously escalate, especially if something goes wrong.

The Japanese government Thursday said five Chinese ballistic missiles had fallen into its exclusive economic zone, the first time any had landed in those waters. The zone is outside of the country's territorial waters, where international ships can pass freely.

Another missile, the government said, landed



A projectile launches Thursday from an unspecified location in China. Its "precision missile strikes" into the Taiwan Strait during military exercises have raised regional tensions. CCTV

50 miles northwest of Yonaguni, a small island at Japan's southernmost tip and just a short distance from Taiwan. The missile did not land in Japan's economic zone.

Japan lodged a protest with the Chinese government. "This is a grave issue that concerns our national security and the safety of the people," said Japan's defense minister, Nobuo Kishi.

On Wednesday, before the missile incident, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Hua Chunying, told reporters that Beijing did not recognize Japan's zone, since "China and Japan have not demarcated a boundary in the relevant waters."

The six areas for China's exercises were chosen for their importance in a potential campaign to seal off Taiwan and repel foreign intervention, Maj. Gen. Meng Xiangqing, a professor of strategy at the National Defense University in Beijing, said in an interview on Chinese television.

One zone covers the narrowest part of the Taiwan Strait. Others could be used to block a major port or attack three of Taiwan's main military bases. One facing southern Taiwan, "creates condi-

tions to bolt the door and beat the dog," he said, using a Chinese saying that refers to blocking an enemy's escape route. He signaled that a bigger show of force using live ammunition was on the way.

"You all can wait and see," Meng said of the exercises. "This is the first time that the military will hold a joint military operation around all of Taiwan island," he said. "It should be said that although this is an exercise resembling actual combat, it can at any time turn into real combat."

Current and former Pentagon officials and military commanders said China's missile firings conducted from areas north, south and east of Taiwan served both broad strategic purposes and specific operational goals.

The missile launches in the northeast, toward Japan, were designed specifically to send a message to Japan, the United States and Taiwan "based on the sensitivity to those waters to each," said Adm. Scott H. Swift, a former U.S. Pacific Fleet commander.

It remains unclear how close Chinese forces will come to Taiwan during the rest of the exercises, which are scheduled to end Sunday.

WORLD & NATION

US: Monkeypox now an emergency

Declaration frees up money, resources to fight virus outbreak

By Zeke Miller,
Mike Stobbe and
Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government declared a public health emergency Thursday to bolster the response to the monkeypox outbreak that has infected more than 6,600 Americans.

The announcement will free up money and other resources to fight the virus, which may cause fever, body aches, chills, fatigue and pimplelike bumps on many parts of the body.

"We are prepared to take our response to the next level in addressing this virus, and we urge every American to take monkeypox seriously," said Xavier Becerra, head of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The declaration by HHS comes as the Biden administration has faced criticism over monkeypox vaccine availability. Clinics in major cities such as New York and San Francisco say they haven't received enough of the two-shot vaccine to meet demand, and some have had to stop offering the second dose to ensure supply of first doses.

The White House said it has made more than 1.1 million doses available and has helped to boost domestic diagnostic capacity to 80,000 tests per week.

The monkeypox virus spreads through prolonged skin-to-skin contact, including hugging, cuddling and kissing, as well as sharing bedding, towels and clothing. The people who have gotten sick so far have been primarily men who have sex with men. But health officials emphasize that the virus can infect anyone.

Earlier this week, the

Biden administration named top officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the White House coordinators to combat monkeypox.

Thursday's declaration is an important — and overdue — step, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University.

"It signals the U.S. government's seriousness and purpose, and sounds a global alarm," he said.

Under the declaration, HHS can draw from emergency funds, hire or reassign staff to deal with the outbreak and take other steps to control the virus.

For example, the announcement should help the federal government to seek more information from state

and local health officials about who is becoming infected and who is being vaccinated. That information can be used to better understand how the outbreak is unfolding and how well the vaccine works.

Gostin said the U.S. government has been too cautious and should have declared a nationwide emergency earlier. Public health measures to control outbreaks have increasingly faced legal challenges in recent years, but Gostin didn't expect that to happen with monkeypox.

"It is a textbook case of a public health emergency," Gostin said. "It's not a red or a blue state issue. There is no political opposition to fighting monkeypox."

The urgency in the current response stems from the rapid spread of the virus coupled with the

limited availability of the two-dose vaccine called Jynneos, which is considered the main medical weapon against the disease.

The doses, given 28 days apart, are currently being given to people soon after they think they were exposed, as a measure to prevent symptoms.

Becerra announced the emergency declaration during a call with reporters. During the call, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Robert Califf said regulators are reviewing an approach that would stretch supplies by allowing health professionals to vaccinate up to five people — instead of one — with each vial of Jynneos.

Under this so-called "dose-sparing" approach, physicians and others would use a shallower injection under the skin, instead of the subcutaneous injection currently recommended in the vaccine's labeling.

Califf said a decision authorizing that approach could come "within days."

Health officials pointed to a study published in 2015 that found that Jynneos vaccine administered that way was as effective at stimulating the immune system as when the needle plunger deeper into other tissue.

But experts also have acknowledged they are still gathering information on how well the conventional administration of one or two full doses works against the outbreak.

Others health organizations have made similar declarations.

Last week, the World Health Organization called monkeypox a public health emergency, with cases in

more than 70 countries. A global emergency is WHO's highest level of alert, but the designation does not necessarily mean a disease is particularly transmissible or lethal.

California, Illinois and New York have all made declarations in the last week, as have New York City, San Francisco and San Diego County.

The declaration of a national public health emergency and the naming of a monkeypox czar are "symbolic actions," said Gregg Gonsalves, a Yale University infectious diseases expert.

What's important is that the government is taking the necessary steps to control the outbreak and — if it comes to that — to have a plan for how to deal with monkeypox if it becomes endemic, he said.



A visitor checks in at a pop-up monkeypox vaccination site Wednesday in West Hollywood, California. RICHARD VOGEL/AP



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Recalling Atlanta's racial massacre

Coalition working to restore 1906 event to public's memory

By Michael Warren
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Everyone who moves through downtown Atlanta today passes places where innocent Black men and women were pulled from trolleys, shot in their workplaces, chased through the streets and beaten to death by a mob of 10,000 white men and boys.

But few have been taught about the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre, which shaped the city's geography, economy, society and power structure in lasting ways. Much like the Red Summer of 1919 in the South and Northeast and the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 in Oklahoma would years later, the white-on-Black violence in Atlanta shattered dreams of racial harmony and forced thousands from their homes.

A grassroots coalition is working to restore Atlanta's killings and their legacy to public memory. Historic markers and tours are planned for this September's anniversary. A one-act play will be performed simultaneously at group dinners across the city. Organizers are seeking 500 hosts, with the ambitious goal of seating 5,000 people to discuss the lasting effects.

These activists say the massacre doesn't fit comfortably in Atlanta's "cradle of the civil rights movement" narrative, but they insist on truth-telling as some politicians push to ignore the nation's history of racial violence.

Mislabeled a riot, the killings of at least 25 Black people and the destruction of Black-owned businesses had a specific purpose: thwarting their economic success and voting power before African Americans could claim equal status, said King Williams, a journalist who gives tours describing



A view of Marietta Street in Atlanta from 1906, a year when racial violence shook the city. KENAN RESEARCH CENTER AT THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

what happened.

"The mob began its work early in the evening, pulling negroes from street cars and beating them with clubs, bricks and stones," The Associated Press reported on Sept. 24, 1906, adding that "negroes were beaten, cut and stamped upon in an unreasoning, mad frenzy. If a negro ventured resistance or remonstrated, it meant practically sure death."

The violence began where Georgia State University's campus is now. Enraged by unsupported headlines about attacks on white women and the evils of "race-mixing," the mob set fire to saloons and pounced on Black men and women headed home from work, Williams explains on the tour.

Their next target was the Crystal Palace, an opulent barbershop where Alonzo Herndon made his first fortune catering to white elites. Poorer white people couldn't stomach such success by a Black man and shattered the place, Williams says.

Bodies were stacked at the statue of newspaperman Henry Grady. Williams describes Grady as a post-Civil War "demagogue who championed Atlanta, but also championed a lot of the racial rhetoric that we still see echoing today." His statue is four blocks from CNN Center.

Steps from there, some Black people either jumped or were thrown from the Forsyth Street bridge onto the railroad tracks below. Others reached shelter inside the gates of the Gammon Theological Seminary in Brownsville, a thriving African American neighborhood 3 miles to the south.

That's where the mob, now "deputized" as law enforcers, came searching for weapons on the third day, ransacking businesses and pulling women and children from their homes. One white officer was killed and some 250 Black people were arrested, including 60 who were convicted. Not one white person was held responsible for any of the deaths, community organizer Ann Hill Bond said.

The cause was not in doubt. Atlanta Constitution editor Clark Howell and former Atlanta Journal publisher Hoke Smith had outdone each other vowing to disenfranchise Black voters while campaigning for governor. As Election Day approached, the papers printed baseless stories about attempted attacks on white women.

A Fulton County grand jury cited "inflammatory headlines" for fomenting the violence, but when J. Maxwell Barber, the publisher of "Voice of the Negro," tied those articles to the racist campaigns, he was run out of town.

Once governor, Smith signed laws that kept most Black people from voting for another half-century. Thousands abandoned Atlanta, which became two-thirds white by 1910, the Census showed. City officials cited the need to avoid violence as they imposed segregation on neighborhoods.

The "riot" label still stuck when the massacre was finally added to Georgia's eighth grade curriculum in 2007.

"It is important for us to use correct language when we're speaking of and remembering and honoring the lives that were lost.

This was a massacre. People were killed," said Bond, who leads a #changename campaign. "And this is just the proper way to truth-tell in order to get to healing. If you don't rip the Band-Aid off, you never get to healing."

Williams gets a variety of reactions on his tours. For college students "it's like discovering fire," he says. Older Atlantans are surprised they never heard the details before. "People who have skin in the game in the city" — civic boosters and people who run nonprofits or work in politics — often get squeamish, he says.

"When you talk about the history of what happened in 1906, a lot of that overlaps today," Williams says. "And a lot of people just don't like that. It really just doesn't shine on Atlanta when we try to present ourselves to be a respected city on a hill."

Trump's net worth presents legal quandary

Any embellishment won't be acceptable if he is under oath

By Ben Protess, Jonah E. Bromwich and William K. Rashbaum
The New York Times

For decades, former President Donald Trump has boasted with impunity about a subject close to his heart and ego: his net worth.

"I look better if I'm worth \$10 billion than if I'm worth \$4 billion," he once said when disputing his ranking on the Forbes billionaires list. In a court case, he acknowledged that when it came to describing the value of his brand, "I'm as accurate as I think I can be."

And when he described his self-aggrandizing style in his book, "The Art of the Deal," he chose a phrase that has followed him ever since: "truthful hyperbole."

But now, Trump will face questions under oath about that pattern of embellishment in an investigation that may shape the future of his family real estate business.

The former president and his eldest daughter, Ivanka Trump, are expected to be questioned later this month by the New York state attorney general's office, which has been conducting a civil investigation into whether he and his company fraudulently inflated the value of his assets.

His son, Donald Trump Jr., was interviewed last week, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Attorney General Letitia James has argued in court papers that "fraudulent or misleading" business practices reigned at the Trump Organization for years and

has said her investigators must question the Trumps to determine who was responsible. Trump fought hard to avoid an interview, but a judge ordered him to face questioning, and investigators will seek to elicit answers that might reveal whether he approved any bogus valuations of his hotels, golf courses and other assets.

Even a single misstep in the deposition could be costly for Trump, who is also the focus of a separate criminal investigation into the same issues.

Although that investigation by the Manhattan district attorney's office lost momentum early this year, prosecutors are planning to review Trump's answers and any incriminating statements or clumsy comments could breathe new life into it.

Trump has derided James' inquiry as a political-motivated "witch hunt" and denied all wrongdoing.

The former president, who is no stranger to being deposed, will present unusual challenges and opportunities for James' lawyers, according to accounts from people who have questioned him under oath in the past and a review of nearly a dozen depositions. He is quick to spar with his inquisitors and often struggles to restrain himself, once telling a lawyer that her questions were "very stupid."

The deposition comes at a precarious moment for Trump, who is facing increasing legal scrutiny for his effort to overturn the 2020 election. Federal prosecutors investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol are asking witnesses about him, a House

committee has uncovered new details about his conduct in the wake of the election and a district attorney in Georgia has convened a grand jury to look into possible election interference by Trump and his allies.

The interviews will mark the final stage of James' three-year civil inquiry, teeing up one of the most consequential decisions of her tenure: whether to sue Trump and his company.

James, facing the likelihood that a lawsuit would bring several more years of legal wrangling without victory assured, could first pursue settlement negotiations with the former president's lawyers to extract a swifter financial payout.

If James does bring a lawsuit, and Trump loses at trial, a judge could impose steeper financial penalties on the former president and even restrict his business operations in New York, all amid a 2024 presidential campaign that he has long hinted he will join.

James, a Democrat running for reelection, has assumed the role of Trump's chief antagonist in New York. And in recent months,

she has adopted an unusually aggressive legal strategy — including persuading a judge, Arthur Engoron, to hold the former president in contempt of court — as she battled to obtain his documents and testimony.

The depositions, while a victory for James, might not deliver a smoking gun.

Trump could assert that he delegated the valuation of his assets to employees, and that he was not deeply involved, or he could invoke his constitutional right against self-incrimination, declining to answer at least some questions.

But people familiar with Trump's approach to legal battles expressed doubt that he would keep quiet.

Unlike in criminal cases like the one James might bring can draw a negative inference from a defendant's refusal to answer questions. And if Trump relies on his Fifth Amendment privilege — as his son Eric Trump did hundreds of times in an interview with James' office two years ago — that could raise questions about what he might be seeking to hide and provide fresh fodder for

his political opponents.

Trump himself has ridiculed witnesses for invoking their Fifth Amendment rights, once remarking that "you see the Mob takes the Fifth," and that, "if you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?"

James' inquiry centers on whether Trump's annual financial statements were a work of fiction — a vehicle for exaggerating the value of his real estate so that he could secure favorable loans and other financial benefits.

James, who has said that Trump "got caught" using "funny numbers in his financial documents," is examining whether Trump and his company used inflated valuations to mislead banks and the IRS.

In challenging James, Trump's legal team would be likely to argue that he was entitled to some leeway in valuing his real estate, a process that is widely viewed as more art than science. Trump's financial statements contained disclaimers that the value of his properties had not been audited or authenticated.

Trump's lawyers might

also argue that the banks that received his financial statements were hardly victims; these lenders made millions of dollars from their dealings with Trump, who recently paid off some of his largest loans.

Any lawsuit James might bring could have some holes as well: Trump does not use email, so any directions he might have given his employees about drafting the financial statements were probably not in writing.

Trump is no novice when it comes to facing questions under oath, having navigated numerous depositions in private lawsuits throughout his half-century in the public spotlight. When asked in 2012 how many depositions he had participated in, Trump, perhaps hyperbolically, put the number at "over 100."

Yet the stakes are higher this time, with Trump facing scrutiny not from private lawyers but government investigators, a relatively rare occurrence for the former president. While Trump responded to questions from the special counsel, Robert Mueller, he did so only in writing.



Former President Donald Trump, seen July 9 at a rally in Alaska, has long boasted about his net worth. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Bottled water handed out in flooded Ky. with more rain in forecast

From news services

HINDMAN, Ky. — National Guard soldiers rushed to distribute bottled water to flood-ravaged eastern Kentucky as forecasters warned of more rain coming to the region.

In the days since historic flooding swamped the Appalachian region, the availability of water surfaced as a big concern for victims after the floodwaters badly damaged water systems. As donations poured into the region, water was a main priority, along with cleaning supplies.

"We're going to deliver water until these counties and areas beg us to stop delivering water," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said Thursday. "As hot as it is, with as many systems that are out, we want a mountain of water there."

National Guard soldiers have delivered more than 11,600 cases of water, the governor said, as intense heat and humidity added to the misery as people continued shoveling out from the wreckage left by flooding that struck a week ago.

Water service has been restored to many people in the region, the governor said. But about 13,500 service connections remained without water and another 41,000 service connections have boil-water advisories, Beshear said.

Work is continuing on heavily damaged water systems, but other systems were "wiped out," the governor said Wednesday. In some areas, it could take weeks or even months to repair water systems, he said.

Scattered thunderstorms were moving through the area again Thursday, but most had been on the lighter side as of midafternoon, National Weather Service meteorologist Philomon Geertson said.

He said storms were expected to continue moving

through overnight that had the potential to cause some isolated flash flooding. A cluster of storms also have the potential to cause isolated or scattered flash flooding Friday, he said. The primary concern, he said, is that the saturated ground could cause waterways to rise quickly.

The statewide death toll from the historic flooding is 37, the governor said.

Ex-lawmaker charged: Former Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vazquez was arrested Thursday on bribery charges related to the financing of her 2020 campaign, the latest hit to an island with a long history of corruption that brought fresh political upheaval to the U.S. territory.

Vazquez, 62, is accused of engaging in a bribery scheme from December 2019 through June 2020 — while she was governor — with several people, including a Venezuelan-Italian bank owner, a former FBI agent, a bank president and a political consultant.

"I am innocent. I have not committed any crime," she told reporters. "I assure you that they have committed a great injustice against me."

The arrest embarrassed and angered many in Puerto Rico who believe the island's already shaky image has been further tarnished, leaving a growing number of people who have lost faith in their local officials to wonder whether federal authorities are their only hope to root out entrenched government corruption.

Concern over previous corruption cases led to a delay in federal aid for Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017 as the U.S. government implemented more safeguards.

Calif. wildfire: Firefighters made gains against Califor-



Beirut port blast: Damaged grain silos collapse Thursday in Beirut on the second anniversary of a massive port blast that killed over 200 people. Hundreds marched in the Lebanese capital to demand punishment for those responsible for the Aug. 4, 2020, blast that occurred when hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrate detonated, causing over 6,000 injuries. HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

nia's deadliest and largest wildfire of the year, but forecasters warned Thursday that spiking temperatures and plunging humidity could create conditions for further growth.

After five days of no containment, the McKinney Fire in Siskiyou County near the Oregon border was 10% surrounded by Wednesday evening. Bulldozers and hand crews were making progress carving firebreaks around much of the rest of the blaze, officials said.

The fire didn't advance much at midweek, following several days of brief but heavy rain from thunderstorms that provided cloudy, damper weather. But as the clouds clear and humidity levels drops in the coming days, the fire could roar again, authorities warned.

Weekend temperatures could reach triple digits as the region dries out again, said meteorologist Brian Nieuwenhuis with the National Weather Service office in

Medford, Oregon.

The blaze broke out last Friday and has charred nearly 92 square miles of forestland, left tinder-dry by drought. More than 100 homes and other buildings have burned and four bodies have been found.

Nuclear talks: Negotiators from Iran, the U.S. and the European Union resumed months-long, indirect talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal Thursday.

The resumption of the Vienna talks, suddenly called Wednesday, appeared not to include high-level representation from all the countries that were part of Iran's 2015 deal with world powers. The negotiations come as Western officials express growing skepticism over the prospects for a deal to restore the accord.

Iran's top negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, met with EU mediator Enrique Mora, Iranian media reported. As in other talks, the U.S. won't

directly negotiate with Iran. Instead, the two sides will speak through Mora.

Pope's nurse promoted: Pope Francis promoted a Vatican nurse whom he credited with saving his life to be his "personal health care assistant." The Vatican announced the appointment of Massimiliano Strappetti, the nursing coordinator of the Vatican's health department, in a one-line statement issued Thursday.

Francis, 85, last year credited Strappetti with having accurately ascertained an intestinal problem that led to the pope's 10-day hospital stay in July 2021 to remove 13 inches of his colon that had narrowed.

Strappetti's appointment was announced days after he and a doctor accompanied Francis on his weeklong "penitential pilgrimage" to Canada to atone for the Catholic Church's role in the country's residential schools for Indigenous children.

African life expectancy: Africa recorded significant growth in its healthy life expectancy from 2000 to 2019, the World Health Organization Africa office said Thursday, exceeding the global average and progress seen in any other region over the same period.

Healthy life expectancy in the region "rose by almost 10 years to stand at 56 years in 2019 compared with 46 years in the year 2000," Dr. Lindiwe Makubalo, assistant regional Director for WHO Africa, said at an online briefing, citing the WHO's new State of Health in Africa report.

The gain exceeds that of the average global healthy life expectancy that increased by five years over the same period, Dr. Makubalo said, attributing it to better essential health services, improvement in health service coverage, in productive and maternal health and in health services to tackle infectious diseases.

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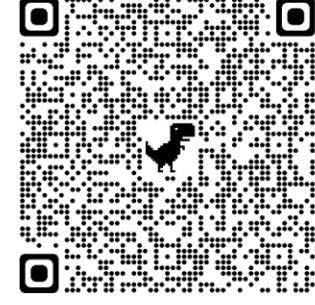


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Former salon owner free on \$1M bond

Accused of sexually assaulting two teens, holding drug-fueled parties for kids at Farmington home

By Ted Glanzer
Hartford Courant

The former owner of a popular Unionville salon accused of holding drug-fueled parties for children during the height of the pandemic, sexually assaulting two teenagers and tampering with teenage witnesses will face a judge again next month.

David Olivo, 41, who once ran

David Salon out of his Plainville Avenue home, had his nine criminal matters continued in Superior Court in Hartford on Wednesday. His next court date is Sept. 28.

Olivo, who is free on bonds totaling more than \$1 million, has not yet entered pleas in any of the matters, some of which stem from at least six alleged parties that took place between August and December 2020 that Farmington police allege

he held for teenagers, records show.

During those parties, police say in court records, Olivo and his then-girlfriend Megan Boyajian allegedly provided or made available alcohol, marijuana, cocaine or MDMA — commonly known as ecstasy — to children under the age of 16.

Olivo also is accused of sexually assaulting two teenage girls — one at his home and in his vehicle in July 2020 during and following a party, another in his home in February 2021 after an outing in West Hartford, records show.

Police also say Olivo, while in jail following his arrest in April 2021, allegedly attempted to tamper with teen witnesses by persuading another teen into pressuring the witnesses into having the charges against Olivo dropped.

From the alleged incidents Olivo is charged with 14 counts of risk of injury to a minor, two counts of second-degree sexual assault, one count of fourth-degree sexual assault, three counts of illegal sexual contact where the victim is under the age of 14, two counts of permitting a minor to possess alcohol and one count of tampering with a witness.

Boyajian is charged with 10 counts of risk of injury to a minor. She is free on bonds totaling \$140,000.

Bristol-based attorney Forest Green, who represents Olivo in eight of the nine criminal matters, said Wednesday outside of the courtroom that he was not clear whether he was authorized to speak to the media on behalf of his client.

Turn to Salon, Page 2

Jones' records sought in riot probe

Sandy Hook attorney: Jan. 6 panel requested 2 years' worth of texts

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — An attorney for the parents of a child killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre who are suing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones over his false claims about the attack said Thursday that the U.S. House Jan. 6 committee has requested two years' worth of records from Jones' phone.

Attorney Mark Bankston told the Texas court that the committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol has requested the digital records.

A spokesperson for the committee declined to comment Thursday.

As Jones testified at the trial on Wednesday, Bankston revealed that the Infowars host's lead attorney, Andino Reynal, had mistakenly sent him the last two years' worth of texts from Jones' cellphone.

Reynal asked Judge Maya Guerra Gamble to declare a mistrial over the mistaken transfer of records and said they should have been returned and any copies destroyed. Gamble rejected the request.

Reynal also accused Bankston of trying to perform "for a national audience." He said the material included a review copy of text messages over six months from late 2019 into the first quarter of 2020.

Bankston said his team followed Texas' civil rules of evidence and that Jones' attorneys missed their chance to properly request the return of the records.

"Mr. Reynal is using a fig leaf (to cover) for his own malpractice," Bankston said.

Turn to Jones, Page 2



Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones attempts to answer questions Wednesday about his emails during his trial in Austin, Texas.

BRIANA SANCHEZ/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Former lawyer finds new purpose, community in Nothing Bundt Cakes bakery in West Hartford



Former attorney Traci Halky has opened Connecticut's second franchise location of Nothing Bundt Cakes, located in West Hartford next to Trader Joe's. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT**

'WE'RE HERE TO LIFT YOU UP'

By Susan Dunne | Hartford Courant

In 2020, Traci Halky was a veteran attorney in Florida, specializing in labor and employment law. Then the pandemic hit.

"I didn't get to see my parents. That was hard," Halky said.

So she moved home to Connecticut and decided to change her career. Halky just became a shopkeeper in West Hartford, opening the bakery Nothing Bundt Cakes next to Trader Joe's on July 24.

She researched franchising opportunities before choosing Nothing Bundt Cakes.

"When I was living in Florida, I found Nothing Bundt Cakes in Palm Beach Gardens. I went in to get a quick gift and I met the owner. She was the most amazing woman. You could feel the happiness and warmth in that store," she said. "I bought Bundtinis. I tasted them.

Oh my god, they were amazing. Me and my kids got hooked."

Nothing Bundt Cakes was founded in 1997 in Las Vegas. It now has more than 430 locations in the United States and Canada. The West Hartford store is the second in Connecticut, after Stamford.

After working 80-hour weeks as an attorney, Halky is enjoying a career that is all about celebration. She also enjoys giving back to the community.

"I donated cake to Journey Home in Hartford. I donated to the Noah Webster Houses," she said. "When I was a lawyer I didn't feel like part of a community. There's both purpose and pleasure in this. It's fulfilling."

As the shop name implies, she sells only bundt cakes, which come in three sizes: large (\$39), which feeds about 18; small

Turn to Bakery, Page 2

Not guilty plea in '21 drive-by shooting

3-year-old Hartford boy was killed while sitting in parked car

By Ahjané Forbes
Hartford Courant

An 18-year-old charged in connection to the death of a 3-year-old boy during a drive-by shooting last year has entered a plea of not guilty, records show.

Tyquam Malone, formerly of Zion Street in Hartford, appeared in Hartford Superior Court GA-14 Wednesday morning beside his public defender.

Malone is charged with murder and second-degree larceny in connection with the death of 3-year-old Randell Jones, who was shot while he was sitting in the backseat of his mother Solmary Cruz's parked car near Nelson Street and Garden Street on April 10, 2021, according to police and court records.

Malone was brought into court Wednesday from Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, where he has been held since his arrest; he is being held in lieu of \$1.5 million

Turn to Shooting, Page 2

ELECTION 2022

Ziogas' exit leaves race wide open in Bristol

Dems hoping to hang on to their last seat in 79th House District

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

With the only Democratic member of Bristol's state legislative delegation retiring, both parties are expecting a heated race for the 79th House District this fall.

Democrats are running Mary Fortier in their bid to hang on to the last seat they hold,

Ziogas while Republicans are putting up Jennifer Van Gorder in their campaign for a sweep.

Turn to Election, Page 2



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Mama bear, 2 cubs rescued from sewer

By Mike Mavredakis
Hartford Courant

Three bears were rescued from a sewer grate in Simsbury Wednesday afternoon after being stuck underground overnight.

The bears, a mother and two cubs, were stuck in the sewer system on Banks Road for hours before they were helped up by several officials Wednesday, according to Jason Hawley, wildlife biologist on the bear program of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

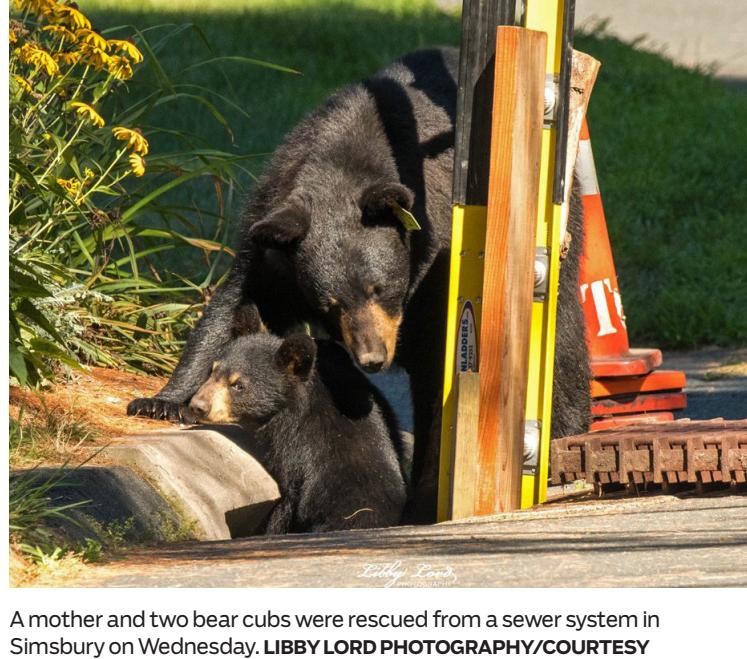
Banks Road resident Scott Conrad said he initially found out about the bears when a neighbor told him around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. The bears were there until they were rescued around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

It took a log, a ladder and a special bear cub call from Hawley to lure them out of the drain, he said.

Hawley said the bears were initially reported to DEEP Tuesday evening, but they thought the mother would know how to get out of the system since she was able to get in. When reports came the bears were still there Wednesday and were now making crying and moaning noises, they went over and searched for the trio, he said.

Conrad described the noise as a desperate cry from the mother, an emotional and distressing sound.

Officials found bear tracks leading into where the system dumps



A mother and two bear cubs were rescued from a sewer system in Simsbury on Wednesday. LIBBY LORD PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY

out but did not see any going in. They spent a couple of hours searching the sewer system from above for signs of the bears. They returned after neighbors found the bears under the same storm drain again.

They removed the storm drain, blocked off the rest of the sewer system with boards, put a ladder down into the system and tried to get the bears to come up with Hawley's bear call, which he said he's learned from being around bears so much. Hawley described the noise as a "very specific little kind of raspy noise that cubs will

make."

"[Mothers] have such a strong maternal instinct that they'll respond to it even though she had both of her cubs with her," Hawley said.

The mother climbed up half the ladder initially before going back down, he said. Hawley had some people from Public Works bring a long log for them to climb up, so it would be a bit more natural for them.

The bears were missing for a brief time before a technician from DEEP climbed down into the sewer and found them with a

flashlight. This is something technicians will sometimes do when DEEP is doing its winter den work, Hawley said.

"It seems like a dangerous thing, but we're able to kind of read their body language and kind of see where they're at," Hawley said.

He said black bears are not aggressive animals and generally want to be left alone.

Libby Lord, a local photographer, watched the rescue and said it was something she'd never forget.

"After everyone was well back from her location, and waiting quietly, and watching ... the momma's head popped up!"

Lord wrote in a social media post. "Then she climbed out, took a look around, and went back to encourage the cubs to come out too. First

one climbed up and out, and moved by a nearby tree, so the momma went to get cub #2. Up it came, much to the relief of the momma bear, and all of the onlookers!"

"We kind of chased them away from the storm drain before they could go back down, then we were able to cover it up and it was a happy ending," Hawley said.

The mother was tagged, but none of the bears was injured in the process, he said.

Conrad called it "a great team effort" from DEEP, Simsbury Police, the State Environmental Conservation Police and the town.

Mike Mavredakis can be reached at mmavredakis@courant.com

MERIDEN

Man, rescued from public pool, dies

A man has died after being rescued from the pool at Hubbard Park in Meriden, according to police.

The man, 72, was rescued from the pool after 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Emergency services and fire personnel were on the scene to render aid before the victim was transported to Mid-State Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will make a determination on the manner and cause of death. Police said once that has been made, they will better understand if there were underlying medical issues that contributed to his death.

Police said no foul play is suspected.

The city of Meriden has closed Hubbard Park pool until Aug. 8, according to police.

— Mike Mavredakis

Salon

from Page 1

Olivo also faces two counts of assaulting a public safety officer/EMS personnel, possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than a half-ounce of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, tampering with evidence, operating a motor vehicle while using a cellphone, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with no insurance, following a traffic incident in February 2021.

Olivo is represented by Hartford-based attorney Matt Sorokin in that matter.

In addition to the criminal charges, Olivo faces a civil lawsuit filed in June 2021 by one of the alleged sexual assault victims.

The lawsuit, which was filed in Superior Court in Hartford and seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, claims the alleged victim suffered, among other things, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and suicidal ideations, resulting in substantial medical bills.

Prior to his arrests Olivo ran a successful salon, which was first located on Farmington Avenue, then at 118 Plainville Ave. before moving into Olivo's home, also on Plainville Avenue. (Town property records show Olivo has since sold the home.)

Ted Glanzer can be reached at tglanzer@courant.com.

Wahlburgers set to open new location at Foxwoods

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Wahlburgers, the burger joint whose only Connecticut location, in Trumbull, closed in 2020, is returning to the state, coming to Foxwoods Resort Casino next summer.

The chain was founded in 2011 by actors Mark and Donnie Wahlberg and their brother, chef Paul Wahlberg, who all starred in the A&E reality show "Wahlburgers." There are now more than 50 locations nationwide.

The locations are decorated with family memorabilia going back to the brothers' childhood in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The Foxwoods location will be built where Fuddruckers is now. That shop is scheduled to close in September.

It will have the standard Wahlburgers menu — burgers, sandwiches, salads, "Wahlbites"

appetizers, veggie options — as well as signature menu item unique to the casino location.

The bar will sell a full-service range of drinks including the signature Wahlburgerski, an unfiltered pale ale.

"Growing up not too far from Foxwoods Resort Casino, it is a natural fit for our team and we are excited to open a Wahlburgers at the property," Mark Wahlberg said in a news release. "I personally am a fan of its Lake of Isles Golf course, and know that Foxwoods is a place Wahlburgers' guests will also love to visit."

In recent months, Foxwoods has opened its 7,000-square-foot buffet-style Canopy Players' Lounge and begun construction on Sushi By Bou. The Trumbull location was in the Westfield Trumbull mall from 2017 to 2020.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com

Shooting

from Page 1

bail, records show. Malone was 16 at the time of the crimes but was charged as an adult. He turned 18 earlier this month, according to Connecticut Department of Correction and court records.

Malone appeared before the judge dressed in a tan prison-issue uniform, remained handcuffed during the hearing and did not speak. His case was continued to next month.

Warrants issued after the shooting allege that Malone was one of three people inside a black Honda Accord that pulled up next to Cruz's car and opened fire on Randell's uncle.

Ten bullets were fired into Cruz's vehicle, the bullets missed Randell's uncle and hit Randell in the arm and torso. Randell, who was sitting next to his 4- and 5-year-old sisters, was rushed to Saint Francis Hospital by his mother where he later died, according to court documents.

Surveillance footage obtained by police showed a black Honda

accord driving by Cruz's car. The rear driver side passenger turned his head and looked directly at the front seat passenger in Cruz's vehicle. The shooter takes out a firearm, points directly at Randell's uncle and fires numerous times, according to police. The Honda fled the scene after the shooting.

The vehicle was found later that evening abandoned in the area of Grace Street. Police said the parking lot where the vehicle was found is known to be a dumping ground for stolen vehicles, the warrant affidavit said.

Jaziah Smith, 21, also is charged in connection to Randell's death. He faces a charge of murder and is also being held at Manson Youth Institution in lieu of a \$2.5 million bond, court and DOC records show.

Malone's family appeared in court and spoke with Attorney Damian Tucker briefly before solemnly leaving the courtroom. When asked for comment, the family refused to speak.

Judge Kevin Doyle ordered that Malone appear in court next on Aug. 24. The court will select a new attorney to represent Malone by this date.

Election

from Page 1

Even though Democrats hold a roughly 3-2 advantage in voter registration in the city, Republicans have dominated the legislative delegation for years.

Chris Ziegas has given Democrats a secure hold on the 79th District for the past six years, winning the 2016 race and then getting reelected in 2018 and 2020. But he announced in mid-spring that he wouldn't run again.

Republicans endorsed Van Gorder, a first-time candidate who built a following of anti-mask activists during the pandemic. Democrats have backed Fortier, a former city council member.

Van Gorder, a real estate agent with an office in Farmington, was prominent in the Bristol chapter of Unmask Our Kids. She uses the tagline "Just a mom who cares" in her campaign.

She spoke before the state school board as recently as February in opposition to mask mandates in schools. Van Gorder is also opposed to mandated

vaccines, and her campaign website describes her as "fighting for parental rights, fighting for medical freedom, and worked with a group on election integrity."

Fortier served on the council under two mayors and was deputy mayor during Ellen Zoppo-Sassu's administration. She works for the state judicial branch and is board president of the Human Resources Agency in New Britain.

Fortier is a proponent of organized labor, has been endorsed by Connecticut AFL-CIO, and has promoted pro-choice rallies this summer amid controversy about the overturn of the Roe vs. Wade.

After sweeping Republicans out of city hall in the 2019 election, Zoppo-Sassu held office with an all-Democratic council that included Fortier. But last year, voters reversed themselves and rejected all Democrats on the council ticket, instead electing Republican Jeff Caggiano and his GOP slate.

Fortier isn't the only former Democratic council member on the ballot this year. Greg Hahn, who was part of the 2019-2021

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Jones

from Page 1

He said the records mistakenly sent to him included some medical records of plaintiffs in other lawsuits against Jones.

"Mr. Jones and his intimate messages with Roger Stone are not protected," Bankston said, referring to former President Donald Trump's longtime ally.

Rolling Stone, quoting unnamed sources, reported Wednesday evening that the Jan. 6 committee was preparing to subpoena the data from the parents' attorneys to assist in the investigation of the deadly riot.

Bankston said outside of court Thursday that the committee had requested the phone records, but hadn't subpoenaed them. He also said he wasn't familiar with everything that was in the records yet, including whether they include any information that the committee is seeking, because there was so much information in them.

"We don't know (yet) the full scope and breadth," of the material, Bankston said. "We certainly saw text messages from as far back as 2019... In terms of what all is on that phone, it's going to take a little while to figure that out."

"The Jan. 6 committee doesn't have any more information about what's on that phone than I do. I don't know if it even covers the time period they are interested in," he said.

Jones didn't attend Thursday's court proceedings. But on his Infowars show Thursday, he said the records were from a year before Jan. 6 and had "nothing to do with it."

"And if anything, I say more radical things on air than I do on text messages. And the idea that there's some type of criminal activity on there is preposterous," he said.

Last month, the Jan. 6 committee showed graphic and violent text messages and played videos of right-wing figures, including Jones, and others vowing that Jan. 6 would be the day they would fight for Trump.

"We don't know (yet) the full scope and breadth [of the material]. We certainly saw text messages from as far back as 2019... In terms of what all is on that phone, it's going to take a little while to figure that out."

— Attorney Mark Bankston

The committee first subpoenaed Jones in November, demanding a deposition and documents related to his efforts to spread misinformation about the 2020 election and a rally on the day of the attack.

In the subpoena letter, Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman, said Jones helped organize the Jan. 6 rally at the Ellipse that preceded the insurrection. He also wrote that Jones repeatedly promoted Trump's false claims of election fraud, urged his listeners to go to Washington for the rally, and march from the Ellipse to the Capitol. Thompson also wrote that Jones "made statements implying that you had knowledge about the plans of President Trump with respect to the rally."

The nine-member panel was especially interested in what Jones said shortly after Trump's now-infamous Dec. 19, 2020, tweet in which he told his supporters to "be there, will be wild!" on Jan. 6.

"You went on Info Wars that same day and called the tweet 'One of the most historic events in American history,'" the letter continued.

In January, Jones was deposed by the committee during an hours-long, virtual meeting in which he said he exercised his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination "almost 100 times."

Associated Press writers Farnoush Amiri in Washington, D.C., and Jill Bleed in Little Rock, Arkansas, contributed to this report.

Bakery

from Page 1

(\$29), which feeds about eight; Bundtlets (\$5.50), which feed one or two; and Bundtinis, which are one- or two-bite samplings of any variety of flavors, and are sold by the dozen for \$26. There is also a tiered cake, for \$80, that is a small on top of a large and feeds about 26 people.

Standing flavors include red velvet with chocolate chips, chocolate chocolate chip, white chocolate raspberry, lemon, strawberries and cream, confetti, carrot, snickerdoodle and vanilla. Floating specialty flavors change periodically. The specialty flavor is lemon-raspberry until Sept. 4, when pumpkin spice season is upon us. Halky also offers a gluten-free chocolate chip cookie cake.

Cakes come with the chain's

signature white butter-cream cheese frosting falling in stripes down the sides of the cake.

"If you're a first-time customer I recommend the assorted Bundtinis so you can try a lot of flavors," she said. Her own favorite is the lemon cake, but she said carrot and confetti have been flying off the shelves.

Decorations to celebrate any variety of occasions can be added to the small and large cakes for \$10. Gender-reveal cakes have a pink or blue rattle hidden in the cake's center hole. The store sells a variety of gift items, which rival the cakes for cuteness.

The West Hartford store is a family undertaking. Halky's father helped install the decor. Her 16-year-old son helps in the kitchen and her 14-year-old twin daughters help out. Her cousin, Sarah Smith of Bridgeport, is the manager.

Halky is looking forward to

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doing more community outreach with her cakes. Her grand opening is still unscheduled, as construction continues on her and neighboring buildings. (The shopping plaza is covered with exposed insulation sheeting.) Twenty percent of her proceeds from the grand opening will benefit the Wethersfield-based Jordan Porco Foundation, which focuses on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. It's an issue dear to Halky, who lost a loved one to suicide.

"We're here to lift you up and bring you joy," she said. "We want to celebrate life."

Nothing Bundt Cakes, 1481 New Britain Ave. in West Hartford, is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. nothingbundtcakes.com.

CONNECTICUT

Police actions ruled justified in '13 murder case

Officers had entered Willimantic home without warrant after seeing fly infestation at window

Associated Press

HARTFORD — The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled Thursday in a murder case that police were justified in entering the defendant's home without a warrant after observing an infestation of flies at a window.

The ruling comes in the case of Andrew Samuolis, who is serving

a 45-year sentence for murdering his father with a modified flare gun in February 2013 and shooting an officer in the arm months later when police entered his Willimantic home.

The court agreed with Samuolis' lawyers, who argued that a warrant was needed for police to go into the home to check on the well-being of the son, who was known to have

mental issues, or if officers believed there was a dead body in the house.

But the justices found that police could have believed the father needed emergency attention, allowing for an exception to the warrant requirement of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"Although the responding officers thought, based on their experience, that the most likely explanation for this fly infestation was the presence of a dead body, they also left open the possibility that an occupant might be injured

rather than dead," Justice Christine Keller wrote for the court. "We cannot say that this supposition was unreasonable."

Police were doing a second well-being check at the home in June 2013 after being called by neighbors, who had not seen the father, 67-year-old John Samuolis, in months.

After calling out and knocking at the door, police entered the home without a warrant, noting changes from a prior visit, including chicken wire around some of the windows

and a fly infestation.

The younger Samuolis appeared in camouflage and shot one officer in the arm before fleeing the home. He was captured after a short manhunt.

A search of the house led to the discovery of John Samuolis' decomposing body in a sealed bedroom.

Prosecutors said the younger Samuolis had shot his father in the head during an argument over plans to sell the home. He later sealed the body in the bedroom after it began to smell, prosecutors said.

QUICK BITES THE FLOUR GIRL BAKERY & CAFÉ

From selling bread on her front porch to a Hebron staple

By Blaine Callahan

Hartford Courant

If you told Michelle Nicholson she'd be running both a bakery and café on Main Street in Hebron three years ago, she wouldn't have believed you.

Turns out, it all started with sourdough.

"It came from a visit to King Arthur Flour in Norwich, Vermont," Nicholson said. "We were up there for vacation and went to a store making bread, and I wanted to do it myself. I was terrible at it at first. I just kept at it."

It didn't take long for her to get the hang of it. Soon, she was cranking out better and better loaves of bread, far more than she or her family could manage to eat. She wound up making a small Facebook group with eight of her closest friends, offering free bread in exchange for feedback.

"If they came and picked it up off the porch they could have it for free, as long as they gave me their feedback," Nicholson said. "That's how it started."

She didn't expect that same Facebook group to balloon into the hundreds within months. Word of mouth spreads quick, with people happy to pay for a loaf or two of bread. She was taking orders and leaving them in a drop box on her porch before long. What was once a hobby was rapidly turning into a business.

Transitioning into The Flour Girl Bakery and Café: "I was baking out of my house initially, which wasn't sustainable," she said. "We got to a point in the spring and summer of 2020 where the website we had kept crashing because our bread would sell out in minutes."

By then, the pandemic was in full swing. Nicholson found herself in a strange position, where her entirely to-go, budding business wasn't affected by most mandates and closings. In fact, she'd come to rent out the kitchen at St. Peter's Church in Hebron,

which was, at the time, vacant given that most gatherings and events were placed on hold.

As she increased production and stepped further into running a business, a parishioner clued her in to a dilapidated building being renovated on Main Street.

"It was literally rotting into the ground before a couple from town took it on," Nicholson said. "They purchased the building and saved it from what would've been a pretty quick demise."

It was rebuilt as a bakery; a perfect location for Nicholson to take her business. As fate would have it, a next-door café would wind up on the market around the same time.

She was close with the owner, whose son worked as a dishwasher for Nicholson at the church. He mentioned how his family was looking to move to Maine, so Nicholson made sure to let his mother know that, if it happened, she'd be interested in buying it.

Not two weeks later, she got a phone call.

"She was offered the job of her dreams in Maine," Nicholson said. "It was an opportunity that would be ridiculous to pass up."

In less than two years, she went from baking out of her kitchen to owning a business, all while a pandemic was gripping the nation.

'Never a time to stop and think': Nicholson reflects on the sudden change in careers as "an absolute whirlwind."

"The expansion was so rapid. There was never even a time to stop and think, 'Do we really want to do this?' Instead, we had to think 'OK, what do we do next?'"

With both businesses up and running, "next" was how to go about menus. The bakery ended up to be more straightforward. After all, she already had her bread down pat.

"Our sourdough breads and artisan breads are hand mixed, shaped and baked. We use a wild yeast sourdough starter, and it



"Our sourdough breads and artisan breads are hand mixed, shaped and baked," Michelle Nicholson said. "We use a wild yeast sourdough starter, and it starts with high-quality flour. We don't use mixes or anything less."



The breads at The Flour Girl Bakery and Café are some of its best sellers.

BLAINE CALLAHAN PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

starts with high-quality flour. We don't use mixes or anything less."

Along with breads is a weekly, revolving theme. Last week was Christmas in July. This week is

breads and sweets from around the globe. You'll find her classic sourdoughs along with salt-

crusted baguettes, Japanese milk bread, Charnushka rye bread, and more.

While The Flour Girl Bakery doesn't handle decorative cakes and cookies, you'll find plenty of unique and delicious baked goods

to try nonetheless. This week has desserts like Dutch chocolate cookies, churro rice crispy treats, Victoria sponge cupcakes, and Italian limoncello muffins.

If you're looking for a delicious latte and something for lunch, however, the café has you covered.

"The thing that sets us apart from most other restaurants is that we're baking the bread that you're getting your sandwiches on," Nicholson said. "Fresh, every day. You go in and get a panini, and it's going to be on sourdough

baked that morning."

Those sandwiches include their Caprese Panini, Classic Turkey, Epic Grilled Cheese, and The Boss: a loaded pepperoni, capicola, ham, and genoa salami sandwich with tomato, smoked cheddar, and a homemade garlic sauce. They offer soups and salads as well, along with a thorough list of coffees and weekly specials.

What comes next for The Flour Girl Bakery and Café?: While running a bakery-café combo is still fresh for Nicholson, that hasn't stopped her from looking forward to what comes next.

"About a week ago, we released our special orders menu," Nicholson said. "We can do dozens of cupcakes and cookies and things like that. We don't do decorated cakes, cookies or specialty cupcakes, however. We focus on the product itself and not the decorations on top."

Otherwise, customers can expect more of the same delicious, baked goods going forward, right on Main St in Hebron. Swing by the café, get lunch, then go to the bakery next door and get a loaf of bread to bring home.

As Nicholson puts it: "It's a very unique experience. It's a labor of love."

The Flour Girl Bakery and Café is at 4 Main St. in Hebron.

Stefanowski says he is no vaccine skeptic, backs religious exemption

By Mark Pazniokas

CT Mirror

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski said that his courtship of voters opposed to vaccine and mask mandates does not signal a personal skepticism about the efficacy of vaccines.

"I do agree, believe, [we should] enforce the normal schedule of vaccine for kids," Stefanowski said in an interview. "I think it's appropriate. My kids are all vaccinated. I've gotten both COVID shots and the booster."

But Stefanowski stands with CTRAMM, Connecticut Residents Against Medical Mandates, a group he addressed last week, in opposing the repeal last year of the religious exemption from required childhood vaccinations.

"The fact that I went to a meeting with people that have different views? That's what I'm supposed to be doing," he said. "And when I'm governor, I'm going to listen to people that I agree with and people that I don't agree with."

Democrats said Tuesday at a video press conference that Stefanowski is flirting with a group that appeals to voters with extreme views about the efficacy and safety of vaccines and, in some cases, ques-

tions whether COVID-19 is real.

State Sen. Saad Anwar, D-South Windsor, a physician specializing in pulmonology, grouped CTRAMM with extremists who have spread misinformation about vaccines and COVID-19.

"Here we have a small fringe group — loud, not nice, but very, very fringe group — which has been against science and has been wrong," Anwar said. "This is the group that says that the disease is not a real disease."

Stefanowski did not dispute that some CTRAMM members may hold positions more aggressive than restoring the religious exemption, but he does not share them.

CTRAMM is a non-profit formed from a movement that reorganized after Facebook banned it over claims it violated the platform's rules on misinformation. When banned, it had 18,000 members; it claims 13,000 now.

Kate Kraemer Prokop, a founder, could not be reached Tuesday, but she described in an online video interview last year that the group narrowed its focus and grew more cautious in its return to Facebook, a platform she called difficult to avoid.

"But you can't be truthful on it. ... You have to keep so many things

hidden. You know, like use code words. It's like so absurd, right?" Prokop said.

The group's focus is restoring the religious exemptions, a position supported by some parents who have vaccinated their children.

"This is not about science. This is about choice," Prokop said in September.

She spoke on The Kevin Alan Show, a web show hosted by former state Rep. Kevin Skulczyck, R-Griswold, a retired correction officer who goes on Kevin Alan on his show.

CTRAMM is part of a network of groups that drew new members during the COVID-19 pandemic, opposing the emergency powers declared by Lamont and the temporary restrictions he imposed on commerce and public gatherings.

Early in the pandemic, Stefanowski played the role of a philanthropist, finding and donating the masks that were in short supply in the first months.

But he has sided with Prokop and other critics of Lamont over a school mask requirement that was dropped on Feb. 7, the same day Stefanowski spoke out against the mandate.

"They called me a while back when they were trying to get the

mask mandate lifted for kids. I helped her with that. I believe we came out with a statement," he said.

"This is the least at-risk population. It should be up to the parent, whether their kid wears a mask. If the parent wants their kid to wear a mask, fine. But let's not force it." That afternoon, Lamont magically lifted the mask mandate.

The administration said the timing was coincidental.

Stefanowski has appealed to parents disenchanted with government over issues ranging from sex education to how America's history of racism is taught in the public schools.

Vague references to "parental involvement" reliably generate

applause at campaign events, he told CT Mirror in an interview in June.

"I don't know whether it's intentional or not, but I think COVID has allowed government to infiltrate every nook and cranny of people's lives," Stefanowski said then.

"And they've now gotten between a mother and her child — they're telling the mom the kid

has to be vaccinated with COVID. They're telling the mom the kid needs to wear masks. They're telling the mom when and where that kid can go to school. They're telling the mom here's what we're going to teach your kid."

There is no required COVID vaccination to attend school.



Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski talks with reporters outside the House chambers on the first day of the 2022 legislative session.

COURANT FILE PHOTO

courant.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 868 Flanders Rd. Mystic, CT 06355 to satisfy a lien on August 18, 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storage treasures.com Cube: 634 Jose Zaporta Cube: 6229 Melissa Wright 8/4 & 8/5/22 7259759

Run dates: 8/4/2022 & 8/5/2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 391 N. Frontage Rd. New London, CT 06320 to satisfy a lien on August 18, 2022 at approx. 2:30 pm at www.storage treasures.com.

Cube: 2060 Jesus Acosta, Cube 3003 Gerjuana Tyus, Cube 4022 Todd Jordan, Cube 4215 Nicholas Hale, 8/4 & 8/5/22 7260077

CITY OF MIDDLETON
COUNCIL OFFICE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Notice is hereby given that at the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown, held on Monday, August 1, 2022, the following actions were taken:

A. APPROVED - Water Department: \$120,000 - Acct. No. 5000-60000-59510-0000-00000-0000-000; to cover costs of emergency repair to water main break at corner of Main Street/Court Street, including permanent repair on Main Street, after settling time needed per Public Works requirements

B. APPROVED - Central Communications: \$32,157 - Acct. No. 1000-18700-51355-0000-00000-0000-000; to cover budget shortfall in FY 21-22 replacement overtime

C. APPROVED - Central Communications: \$8,741 - Acct. No. 51980-00000-00000-000; to cover Federal holiday added June 2021, after FY21-22 budget approval

D. APPROVED - Office of General Counsel: \$35,000 - Acct. No. 1000-05000-56130-0050; to cover cost for Brown Street property transfer and settlement

E. APPROVED - Police Department: \$169,855.11 - Acct. No. 1000-18000-xxxx; to cover negative balance for Police overtime, replacement overtime, Police holiday pay, and animal holiday pay FY 2022

F. APPROVED - Police Department: \$60,601.30 - Acct. No. 1000-18000-51358-0180; to cover negative balance for private duty overtime for FY 2022

ATTEST:

LINDA S.K. REED
Common Council Clerk
8/5/22 7263801

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 1501 Route 12 Gales Ferry CT 06335 to satisfy a lien on August 18, 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storage treasures.com Cube: 1209 Robert Jacobowitz Cube: 1322 Dwayne Bell Cube: 1363 James Langlois Cube: 1373 Arturo Nelson Cube: 2181 Hector Lucena-Martinez Cube: 2356 Eugene Murdock 2nd 8/4 & 8/5/22 7259734

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Lawrence F. Strekel, Late of LYME, AKA Lawrence Francis Strekel (22-0473)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated July 28, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

ESTATE OF John Anthony DuBois, Late of Middletown (22-00679)

The Hon. Joseph D. Marino, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Middletown Probate Court, by decree dated July 29, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan M. Hood, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Karen C. DuBois

c/o ROBERT L CURZAN, LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT L. CURZAN, 94 COURT STREET, MIDDLETON, CT 06457

8/5/2022 7263800

**Prequalification for Greene-Hills K8 School Mechanical Improvements
RFQ 2023-006**

The City of Bristol ("the City") is seeking to make mechanical systems improvements at Greene-Hills K8 School, and is accepting qualifications submissions for subsequent issuance of construction documents to contractors that meet the prequalification requirements for said project.

Qualifications will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until August 22, 2022 at 2:00 pm; submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. The City reserves the right to waive any informality in any submission, to reject any and/or all submissions, and to accept qualifications that in its judgment is in its best interest. Interested firms are required to submit one original copy via digital media of its qualifications to the Purchasing Department no later than the date and time noted above. Submissions may be made via email, shared file service, or USB drive; the City does not assume responsibility for failure of submissions to be received by the City by the date and time noted above.

Complete instructions for submitting qualifications are included on the City's web site at the web address noted below. The Owner reserves the right, in its absolute and sole discretion, to waive any informality in or to reject any or all bids if deemed to be in its best interest.

Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
111 North Main Street
City of Bristol, Connecticut

Tel (860) 584-6195
purchasing@bristoltct.gov
http://www.bristoltct.gov/bids

8/5/22 7263101

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MIDDLETON PLANNING AND ZONING
COMMISSION
AUGUST 10, 2022

**PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED
TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS
ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN
COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC
HEARING.**

1. Request for a special exception for a new farm winery located at 519 Miner Street in the R-30 Zone. Applicant/Agent: Joseph DeFrancesco/Fallsbrook Farm, LLC. SE2022-6.

2. Request for a special exception for a change of use from a residential to a professional office use for properties located at 316 and 324 Washington Street in the MXC zone. Applicant/Agent: Aston House, LLC. SE2022-7.

Thomas Pattiavina, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission
7/29, 8/5/2022 7257917

LEGAL NOTICE
CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Chester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT to hear the following:

Application for Special Exception: 204 West Main Street - Camp Hazen YMCA, Inc.; Proposed site improvements at dining hall and beach area.

Details available on Town website or from zoningofficial@chesterct.org. At this Hearing interested parties may appear and be heard; written correspondence will be received and made a part of the record. Copy of the above items to file in the Office of the Town Clerk for public review.

Bettie Perreault, Secretary

Dated at Chester, Connecticut this 29th day of July 2022.

7/29, 8/5/2022 7253931

**Housing
Counsel
SUNDAYS IN
Home &
Real Estate**

Hartford Courant



"Early detection gave us more time to find information and support together."

**If you're noticing changes,
it could be Alzheimer's.
Talk about visiting
a doctor together.**

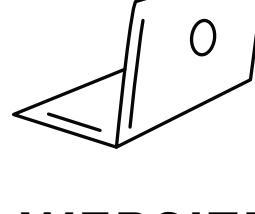
ALZ.org/TimeToTalk

alzheimer's
association



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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM / BUSINESS

Enforcement doubts dog Russian oil price-cap idea

Private sector, led by maritime insurers, are skeptical of plan pushed by US

By Alan Rappeport

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration's push to form an international buyers' cartel to cap the price of Russian oil is facing resistance amid private sector concerns that it cannot be reliably enforced, posing a challenge for the U.S.-led effort to drain President Vladimir Putin's war chest and stabilize global energy prices.

The price cap has been a top priority of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who has been trying to head off another spike in global oil costs at the end of the year. The Biden administration fears that the combination of a European Union embargo on Russian oil imports and a ban on the insurance and financing of Russian oil shipments will send prices soaring by taking millions of barrels of that oil off the market.

But the untested concept has drawn skepticism from energy experts and, in particular, the maritime insurance sector, which facilitates global oil shipments and is key to making the proposal work. Under

the plan, it would be legal for them to grant insurance for oil cargo only if it was being sold at or below a certain price.

The insurers, which are primarily in the EU and Britain, fear they would have to enforce the price cap by verifying whether Russia and oil buyers around the world were honoring the agreement.

"We can ask to see evidence of the price paid, but as an enforcement mechanism, it's not very effective," said Mike Saltouse, global claims director at The North of England P&I Association Ltd., a leading global marine insurer. "If you have sophisticated state actors wanting to deceive people, it's very easy to do."

He added: "We've said it won't work. We've explained to everybody why."

That has not deterred Yellen and her top aides, who have been crisscrossing the globe to make their case with international counterparts, banks and insurers that an oil price cap can — and must — work at a moment of rapid inflation and the risk of recession.

"At a time of global anxiety over high

prices, a price cap on Russian oil is one of the most powerful tools we have to address inflation by preventing future spikes in energy costs," Yellen said in July.

The Biden administration is trying to mitigate fallout from sanctions adopted by the EU in June, which would ban imports of Russian oil and the financing and insuring of Russian oil exports by year's end.

Yellen and other Treasury officials want those sanctions to include a carve-out that allows for Russian oil to be sold, insured and shipped if it is purchased at a price that is well below market rates. They argue that this would diminish the revenue that Russia takes in while keeping oil flowing.

The plan relies heavily on the maritime insurance industry, a web of insurers that provide coverage for ships and their cargo, liability for potential spills and reinsurance, a form of secondary insurance used to defray the risk of losses. Most of the major insurers are based within the Group of 7 major industrial nations, which have been coordinating sanctions against Russia for its war in Ukraine.

US seeking broadened airline rules on refunds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Department is proposing to require airlines to offer passengers a refund if their flight schedule is changed significantly or the airline makes major changes to their itinerary.

The proposed rule announced Wednesday would require airlines to give refunds if their departure or arrival time changes by three hours or more for a domestic flight or at least six hours for an international one.

Refunds would also be due if the airline changes the passenger's departure or arrival airport, adds stops in their itinerary, or causes "a significant downgrade" in the travel experience by switching to a different type of plane.

The rule would apply even for nonrefundable tickets, which usually cost less and are favored by many leisure travelers.

The proposal comes after the department was flooded with complaints by passengers whose flights were canceled or changed — or who were afraid to fly during the early months of the pandemic — and who couldn't get refunds.

Airlines prefer to hand out travel vouchers instead of refunds.

The department proposes to require that airlines and ticket agents give vouchers that don't expire for passengers who are told not to travel during a pandemic for health reasons or because borders are closed.

The proposal faces a public-comment period and likely opposition by airlines.

Currently, airlines are required to offer refunds to passengers whose flights are canceled or significantly changed, but it has never defined a cancellation or significant change.

Because of that, airlines have challenged the Transportation Department's authority to force them to pay refunds.



With U.S. inflation surging, shoppers seek out bargains on school supplies July 27 at a Target store in South Miami, Fla. MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

Back-to-school costs are spiking

Surging inflation affecting prices of everything from clothes to books to pencils

By Anne D'Innocenzo and Claire Savage

Associated Press

NEW YORK — To understand the impact of surging inflation on this year's back-to-school spending, look no further than children's rain boots with motifs like frogs and ladybugs made by Washington Shoe Co.

Spending held steady for these ever-green items even after the Kent, Washington-based business was forced to pass along 15% price increases in January to its retail clients because of soaring transportation costs. But by May, as gas and food prices also surged, shoppers abruptly shifted away from the \$35 higher-end rain boots to the no-frills versions that run \$5 to \$10 cheaper, CEO Karl Moehring said.

"We are seeing consumers shift down," said Moehring, noting dramatic 20% sales swings in opposite directions for both types of products. "Wages are not keeping up with inflation."

This back-to-school shopping season, parents — particularly in the low-

middle-income bracket — are focusing on the basics while also trading down to cheaper stores amid surging inflation, which hit a new 40-year high in June.

Last week, Walmart noted higher prices on gas and food are forcing shoppers to make fewer purchases of discretionary items, particularly clothing. Best Buy, the nation's largest consumer electronics chain, cited that inflation has dampened consumer spending on gadgets. Both companies cut their profit forecasts as a result.

Such financial struggles amid the industry's second-most important shopping season behind the winter holidays mark a big difference from a year ago when many low-income shoppers, flush with government stimulus and buoyed by wage increases, spent freely.

Matt Priest, CEO of trade group Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America, noted that last year, the group's retail members saw a noticeable uptick in online sales mid-month when shoppers received their monthly child tax credit checks that amounted to a couple of hundred dollars. This season, without that bump, he expects shoppers will buy fewer shoes for their children and rely on private label brands.

Inflation has squeezed household finances for Jessica Reyes, 34, who took her

daughters Jalysa, 7, and Jenessis, 5, to a "Back to School Bash" event last month on Chicago's North Side that offered free backpacks filled with supplies for students.

Out shopping, her girls were drawn to the school supplies featuring TV characters and animals they love, but she'll focus on the plain versions.

"They want the cute ones, you know, the kitty ones. And those are always more expensive than the simple ones. And same thing with folders, or notebooks, or pencils," Reyes said.

Multiple forecasts point to a solid back-to-school shopping season.

Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all payment forms, including cash, forecasts back-to-school spending will be up 7.5% from July 14 through Sept. 5 compared with the year-ago period when sales rose 11%. For the 2020 back-to-school period, sales fell 0.8% as the pandemic wreaked havoc on schools' reopening plans and back-to-school shopping.

Still, higher prices are propping up much of the numbers.

A basket of roughly a dozen supply items showed a price increase of nearly 15% on average for this back-to-school season compared with a year ago, according to retail analytics firm DataWeave.

US oil prices dip below \$90 mark

Oil prices continued to fall Thursday, with U.S. oil futures dipping below \$90 a barrel for the first time since the war in Ukraine began, as concerns about a slowing global economy worried investors.

Two months ago, oil prices topped \$120 a barrel, helping to push the national average price of gasoline to about \$5 a gallon. But prices have steadily decreased with increased oil output, easing demand and recession fears.

West Texas Intermediate oil, the U.S. benchmark, fell to \$89.50, a 27.6% drop from its peak in March of about \$124 dollars a barrel, before closing at \$88.54. Brent crude, the international benchmark, dipped to \$93.64, nearly 27% from its high of \$127.90 a barrel in March, before settling at \$94.12.

Equifax sued over glitch in credit scores

By Mike Schneider

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Florida woman has sued Equifax claiming she was denied a car loan because of a 130-point mistake in her credit report that she says was part of a larger group of credit score errors the ratings agency made this spring due to a coding problem.

The class-action lawsuit was filed in federal court in Atlanta on behalf of Nydia Jenkins and potentially millions of others who applied for credit during a three-week period earlier this year. The Jacksonville, Florida, woman was forced to accept another, less favorable loan that was \$150 per month more than the one she

was turned down for because of the error, according to the lawsuit.

Credit scores provide lenders with a picture of how big a risk a borrower is, and they typically range from 300 to 850 points, with a higher score usually resulting in better terms for people applying for mortgages, auto loans or mortgages.

"Millions of Americans rely on credit to make the most important purchases of their lives, from homes to cars to appliances and everything in between," John Morgan and John Yanchunis, the attorneys representing Jenkins, said in a statement. "We believe that many of the people impacted — some of whom may still be unaware of what happened — suffered severe financial consequences."

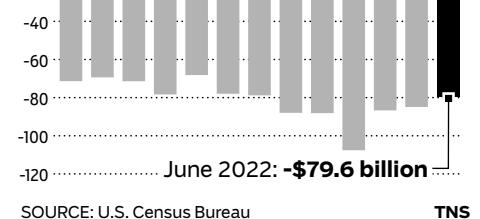
The errors occurred over three weeks from mid-March to early April. An analysis Equifax conducted shows that there was no shift in a majority of credit scores, and for those who did experience a change, only a small number would have received a different credit decision, Equifax said in an emailed statement Thursday.

"While the score may have shifted, a score shift does not necessarily mean that a consumer's credit decision was negatively impacted," the statement said.

Equifax also said the problems stemmed from a coding issue that "resulted in the potential miscalculation of certain attributes used in model calculations," and that less than 300,000 consumers had a score shift of 25 points or more.

Trade deficit

U.S. exports minus imports, in billions, by month, seasonally adjusted:



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

TNS



Fruit awaits buyers at a stall in Taipei, Taiwan. China has blocked imports of Taiwanese goods such as citrus and fish, but avoided sanctions on microchips. **CHIANG YING-YING/AP 2021**

Taiwan halts flights as China holds military drills nearby

By Joe McDonald
Associated Press

BEIJING — Taiwan canceled airline flights Thursday as China fired missiles near the self-ruled island in retaliation for a top American lawmaker's visit, adding to the risk of disruptions in the flow of Taiwanese-made processor chips needed by global telecom and auto industries.

China ordered ships and planes to avoid military drills that encircled Taiwan, which the mainland's ruling Communist Party claims as part of its territory. The Hong Kong newspaper The South China Morning Post called the drills an "effective Taiwan blockade."

Beijing announced "live-fire exercises" after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., arrived Tuesday for a one-day visit, defying warnings from Beijing. On Wednesday, Beijing banned imports of hundreds of Taiwanese food items including fish, fruit and cookies.

So far, China has not ordered a halt to the flow of chips and other industrial components, a step that would send shock waves

through the shaky global economy.

The two sides, which split in 1949 after a civil war, have no official ties but one of the world's busiest technology and manufacturing relationships.

Two-way trade soared 26% last year to \$328.3 billion. Taiwan, which produces half the world's processor chips and has technology the mainland can't match, said sales to Chinese factories rose 24.4% to \$104.3 billion.

Taiwanese companies have invested nearly \$200 billion in the mainland over the past three decades, according to the island's government. Entrepreneurs, engineers and others have migrated to the mainland to work, some recruited by Chinese chipmakers and other companies that want to catch up with Taiwan.

Taiwan plays an outsized role in the chip industry for an island of 24.5 million people, accounting for more than half the global supply.

Its producers make the most advanced processors for smartphones, tablet computers, medical devices and other products.

Chips are China's biggest

import at more than \$400 billion a year, ahead of crude oil.

Taiwanese companies are preparing for Chinese shows of force and possible trade disruptions beyond the four days Beijing says its drills will last, said economist Alicia Garcia Herrero of Natixis CIB, who was meeting businesspeople in the island's capital, Taipei.

"If ports can't operate normally, we can see the consequences," she said.

On Thursday, at least 40 flights to and from Taiwan were canceled, according to the China Times newspaper. It cited Taoyuan Airport in the capital, Taipei, as saying cancellations were "not necessarily" related to the military drills.

There was no immediate indication of the possible impact on shipping, which has the potential to jolt the global economy.

Taiwan produces more than half the processor chips used in smartphones, autos, tablet computers and other electronics. Chip sales to Chinese factories that assemble most of the world's consumer electronics rose 24.4% last year to \$104.3 billion.

Twitter subpoenas banks and investors backing Musk's bid

By Lauren Hirsch
The New York Times

Twitter has sent dozens of subpoenas in recent days to the banks and investors that were backing Elon Musk in his bid to acquire the company, while also seeking more information about well-known technology industry personalities who are considered close to Musk.

The subpoenas are part of efforts to help determine whether Musk had quietly abandoned his deal to acquire Twitter even before he told it of his plans to do so, which would breach his contract with the company, said two people familiar with Twitter's thinking, who requested anonymity because the discussions were private.

Under the terms of the deal, Musk must use "reasonable best efforts" to close the sale, including securing debt financing for the \$44 billion purchase. But Twitter claims in a lawsuit against Musk in Delaware Chancery Court that he appeared to have abandoned efforts to complete his financing.

Musk, one of the world's richest men, signed commitment letters with a number of Wall Street banks, led by Morgan Stanley, for a total of \$13 billion in debt financing. He later brought in Silicon Valley investors, including the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, to provide about \$7 billion in financing.

In subpoenas sent to investment banks working for Musk, including Morgan Stanley, Barclays and Bank of America, Twitter demanded information related to efforts to consummate his debt financing, including an expected timeline for doing so.

Twitter is also requesting information about Musk's decision to scrap his loan against his Tesla shares to



GREGORY BULL/AP

help finance the deal.

Musk had originally planned to take out a roughly \$12 billion loan against his Tesla stock. But shares of the electric-vehicle maker plummeted in the weeks after he signed the deal, making such a loan considerably more risky.

Twitter also asked for more information about any analysis that banks have done at Musk's instruction about the number of fake users on its platform. He has cited his concerns about fake accounts on Twitter as a reason he wants to withdraw his offer.

What Musk's bankers demanded — and why — could be crucial for the deal. Twitter's ability to sue Musk to force him to close the deal, under its "specific performance clause," is voided if his debt financing falls apart. But that escape works only if the banks, which have signed commitment letters, walk away independently — not if Musk prods them.

"The Delaware courts themselves are very wary about people who basically have their fingerprints all over self-sabotage," said Eric Talley, a professor of corporate law at Columbia Business School.

Musk filed a response to Twitter's lawsuit on Friday, though it is temporarily sealed to the public while he and Twitter negotiate which

parts to redact. His arguments justifying his decision to walk away from the Twitter deal so far have focused on the company's public disclosures about bots and fake accounts.

His lawyers have implied that those disclosures were materially misleading, which could give Musk grounds to back out of the deal.

Twitter's legal outreach over the past week also sought more information about conversations with a number of the Silicon Valley heavyweights Musk is known to be close to. That could shed further light on the evolution of his thinking about a deal, once he began to send tweets implying that he might want to back out or take another cut at it for a lower price.

In a subpoena issued to Valor Equity Partners, the investment firm founded by Antonio Gracias, a longtime friend of Musk's, Twitter's lawyers sought more information about conversations with Chamath Palihapitiya, the chief executive of Social Capital, and David Sacks, a general partner at the investment firm Craft Ventures, among others.

Both Palihapitiya and Sacks were at a private conference in which Musk expressed doubt about Twitter's disclosures concerning its number of fake accounts.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, August 5, 2022

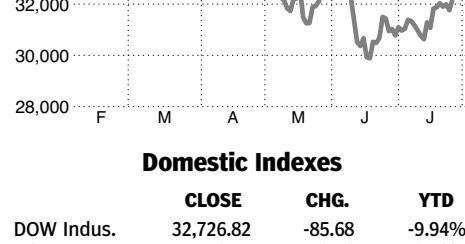
DOW
32,726.82 -85.68

10-YR T-BOND
2.69% -.05

GOLD
\$1,788.50 +30.50

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 32,726.82
Change: -85.68 (-0.3%)

10 DAYS



Domestic Indexes

CLOSE **CHG.** **YTD**

DOW Indus.	32,726.82	-85.68	-9.94%
DOW Trans.	14,478.74	+52.13	-12.13%
DOW Util.	1,021.62	-4.12	+4.16%
NYSE Comp.	15,224.21	-42.95	-11.30%
Nasdaq Comp.	12,720.58	+52.42	-18.69%
S&P 500	4,151.94	-3.23	-12.89%
S&P 400	2,490.51	-18.34	-12.37%
Wilshire 5000	41,451.68	-39.62	-14.46%
Russell 2000	1,906.46	-2.47	-15.09%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER) **CLOSE** **CHG.** **YTD**

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	18.66	+.45	+31.4	
AMTE IDEA Group LP (AMTD)	4.30	-.195	+2.9	
AT&T Inc (T)	18.27	-.10	-25.7	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	103.91	+.582	-27.8	
Allena Pharmaceutical (ALNA)	.16	+.04	-73.7	
Amazon.com Inc (AMZN)	142.57	+.035	-14.5	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	77.51	+.31	-11.4	
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	6.62	-.02	-15.3	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	165.81	-.32	-6.6	
Applied DNA Sci (APDN)	5.74	+.164	+42.8	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.75	+.25	-3	
Bank of America (BAC)	33.40	-.24	-24.9	
Barnes Group (B)	33.76	-.13	-27.5	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	1947.25	-19.23	-18.8	
Brist Myr Sq (BMY)	72.12	-.87	+15.7	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	101.87	+.49	-1.3	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	9.75	-.04	-51.5	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	41.81	+.05	-22.9	
Charter Communinc (CHTR)	459.45	+.727	-29.5	
ChemoCentrity Inc (CCXI)	50.43	+26.32	+38.5	
Cigna Corp (CI)	280.10	+.836	+22.0	
Coinbase Global Inc (COIN)	88.90	+.089	-64.8	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	38.93	+.45	-22.7	
Disney (DIS)	108.12	-.90	-30.2	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.43	-.162	-10.2	
Endo Intl plc (ENDP)	.64	-.11	-83.0	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.25	+.192	-4.40	
Eversource Energy (ES)	91.00	+.17	...	
Exela Technologies (XELA)	1.67	+.21	-90.5	
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	87.19	-.383	+42.5	
Ford Motor (F)	15.37	-.32	-26.0	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	3.93	+.17	-24.4	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	229.16	-.151	+9.9	
Gen Electric (GE)	73.67	-.07	-22.0	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	63.13	-.32	-8.6	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	192.44	+.94	-7.7	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	13.47	-.07	-15.4	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	20.15	+.05	-20.4	
Intel Corp (INTC)	35.66	-.49	-30.8	
InVivo Therapeutics (NVIV)	8.00	+.358	-29.8	
Kaman (KAMN)	31.31	-.04	-27.4	
Keycorp (KEY)	17.74	-.37	-23.3	
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	47.04	-.475	-31.1	
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	18.56	-2.00	-51.2	
M&T Bank (MTB)	175.44	-.107	+14.2	

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	88.54	90.66	+17.72%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	8.12	8.27	+117.75%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.79	2.91	+25.36%
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,788.50	1,758.00	-2.13%
Silver (oz)	20.10	19.86	-13.84%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

World's eyes on Taliban after US strike

By Bobby Ghosh
Bloomberg Opinion

The U.S. drone strike that killed Ayman al-Zawahri in Kabul on Sunday caught the Taliban leadership red-handed and flat-footed. Their promises to prevent the country from once again becoming a terrorist haven have been exposed as lies: The al-Qaida leader was living in the Afghan capital, reportedly in a house belonging to a top Taliban leader.

Three days after the killing, the Taliban was still struggling to formulate a response. That might be because Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's supreme commander, and his leadership team, recognize both the opportunity and the challenge presented by al-Zawahri's killing.

As the militant group prepares to celebrate the first anniversary of its return to power after the U.S. military pullout, its goal of securing international recognition as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers remains

unfulfilled. Their pariah status makes it nearly impossible for the Taliban government to manage the country's economy, which was propped up by foreign aid until the U.S. withdrawal last summer.

The economic crisis has only deepened in recent months. Afghanistan is reeling from the effects of its worst drought in two decades. A recent report by the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction reckons 70% of households are "unable to cover basic food and non-food needs."

If Akhundzada can now restrain his own fighters, as well as al-Qaida operatives in the country, from responding with violence, it might strengthen the leadership's claim that they aren't the Taliban of old. In turn, this would make it easier for the international community to do business with Afghanistan, smoothing the way for much-needed humanitarian aid and some support for the shattered economy.

But many in the Taliban will view the killing of al-Zawahri as a national affront,

and the clamor for revenge will likely grow louder in the days ahead. Akhundzada will be especially watchful of Sirajuddin Haqqani, the most powerful of his deputies and al-Qaida's main Afghan patron — and owner of the house in which al-Zawahri was hiding out.

Probably the most anti-American of all the Taliban's leaders, Haqqani is designated a terrorist by the U.S.; the FBI has a long-standing \$10 million reward "for information leading directly" to his arrest. (The price on al-Zawahri's head was \$25 million.) His eponymous network of fighters, the most powerful cohort within the Taliban, is more loyal to him than to the supreme commander.

Reining in his most ferocious attack dogs won't be easy for Akhundzada. Haqqani may argue that, as al-Zawahri's host, he is obliged to avenge the killing of his guest. (The Taliban leadership puts much store in ancient tribal rules of hospitality: For years, the group cited those traditions when rejecting calls for the expulsion of Osama

bin Laden.)

But Akhundzada could counter that custom obliges guests to leave before they become too much of a burden on their hosts. He might even be able to use that argument to serve notice on other al-Qaida figures currently enjoying his hospitality. He can count on the support of the relatively moderate faction of the Taliban, led by Abdul Ghani Baradar, which has been chafing since being sidelined by Haqqani and his hardliners.

It should be easy enough for Akhundzada to make the case that retaliating for al-Zawahri's killing would be against the interests of Afghanistan. But that is assuming the Taliban's supreme commander places the welfare of his own people above that of his guests.

He and his leadership team must know that Afghan eyes, as well those of the world, are on them.

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Trump may hand Senate to Democrats once again



Carl P. Leubsdorf

Nineteen months ago, Donald Trump's fixation on unproven allegations of election fraud played a major role in the Republicans' loss of two U.S. Senate seats in Georgia and, with them, their Senate majority.

Now, the former president appears to be handicapping the GOP's effort to regain that majority. He has helped nominate several conservative political neophytes with questionable general election prospects in the closely contested states that decided the 2020 presidential election.

That dynamic was on display Tuesday when Arizona Republicans chose Blake Masters, a self-styled culture war fighter who has adopted Trump's combative style, to run against freshman Sen. Mark Kelly, one of the more vulnerable 2022 Democrats. Masters, with Trump's backing, defeated businessman Jim Lamon and state Attorney General Mark Brnovich.

Polls have shown Kelly, one of the best-funded Democratic incumbents, with a lead.

At the same time, the GOP may have gotten a break Tuesday in Missouri when the state's controversial former Republican governor, Eric Greitens, lost the senatorial primary to state Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a more mainstream Trump backer who will be a heavy November favorite. Though Trump endorsed both Erics, many close to him backed Greitens, who resigned after a sex scandal in 2017.

Three months before the Nov. 8 midterm elections, Republicans remain favored to upend the narrow Democratic majority in the House, though some recent polls show Democratic gains. But the Senate is far more in doubt.

A major reason is that Republican prospects are dimming in six key states, including four where Trump spurred the GOP to nominate conservative newcomers. Besides Arizona, they include Ohio and Pennsylvania, where the GOP is



Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., above, will face Blake Masters, who was backed by former President Trump, in November. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP 2021

defending seats vacated by retiring Republicans, and Georgia, where Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock is trying to hold the seat he narrowly won in January 2021.

The other two are battleground states where Trump strongly supports the GOP candidate — Wisconsin, where Sen. Ron Johnson is seeking a third term, and Nevada, where freshman Catherine Cortez Masto is regarded as one of the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents, along with Kelly and Warnock.

Republicans probably need to win four of those six seats to regain the majority they lost in those two Georgia elections.

In Ohio, Republicans are increasingly concerned that author J.D. Vance, who won the May GOP primary with Trump's support, is being outraised financially and out-campaigned by Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan, a moderate who has long been critical of the Democratic Party hierarchy.

They are running to succeed retiring Republican Sen. Rob Portman.

In Pennsylvania, Republicans fear television personality Mehmet Oz is off to a slow start in his bid to succeed retiring GOP Sen. Pat Toomey.

A narrow primary winner, Oz has faced questions about his dual U.S.-Turkish citizenship and whether his actual residence is in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. His Democratic opponent, Lt. Gov. John

Fetterman, suffered a stroke on the eve of the May primary and was off the campaign trail until recently. But polls show him with about a 10-point lead.

Another Republican celebrity candidate encountering early problems is the former Heisman Trophy-winning University of Georgia football star, Herschel Walker, whom Trump recruited to oppose Warnock. Walker, who was living in the Dallas area until he started running, has given imprecise answers to questions about his policy positions, personal relationships and number of children.

Polls show Warnock slightly ahead. Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who overcame Trump's opposition in the GOP primary, is leading Democrat Stacey Abrams in their rematch of the 2018 race won by Kemp.

In Wisconsin, polls show Johnson, another outspoken Trump ally, in a close reelection race against Democratic Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes. Barnes would be Wisconsin's first African American U.S. senator.

Finally, in closely contested Nevada, another state that Trump narrowly lost in 2020 (like Arizona, Georgia, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania), freshman Democrat Cortez Masto is trying to fend off former state Attorney General Adam Laxalt.

Senate races are not the only places where Trump's strong GOP primary

influence may be created general election problems for Republicans.

In Michigan, Tudor Dixon, a conservative media personality backed by Trump, won the GOP primary but faces an uphill race against Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Two of three Republican House members apparently survived pro-Trump challenges stemming from their votes to impeach the former president after the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol. Reps. Dan Newhouse and Jaime Herrera Beutler of Washington state are both favored in November in their heavily Republican districts. The loser was freshman Rep. Peter Meijer of Michigan.

In Kansas, Kris Kobach, a key figure in Trump's failed voter fraud commission, won a comeback bid in a GOP primary for state attorney general. At the same time, Kansas voted overwhelmingly to keep a state constitutional provision recognizing legalized abortion in the first major voter test of the issue since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June.

With a new USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll showing the issue is energizing Democratic voters, abortion looms as a potential problem for Republicans in November. So does Donald Trump.

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Investors not to blame for home prices going through roof

By Joel Griffith

The Heritage Foundation

With so much attention fixed on soaring prices for gasoline and groceries, one can almost overlook the fact that we're also enduring an affordable housing crisis. The question is, why?

Spanning the pandemic era from February 2020 through May 2022, home prices soared 43.5%. Over the past 12 months, home prices are up 19.7%, while residential property prices in the United States, adjusted for inflation, are now 6.7% above the prior record levels of the 2006 bubble.

Home prices are increasing far greater than family income growth. The home-price-to-median-income ratio now stands at more than 8.1, significantly higher than the levels of well under 5.0 experienced from 1980 to 2000. The mortgage-payment-to-income ratio hit 42% in May — tied for the highest level since the creation of the index in 2006. The mortgage payment on a median-priced home with a 20% down payment jumped from under \$1,300 to more than \$2,000 in just the past year as interest rates and home prices surged — a whopping 56% increase.

Median apartment rental costs, meanwhile, have jumped 12% this past year. Because leases often roll over annually, the Consumer Price Index data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not

yet fully reflect this surge. Since March 2020, numerous cities experienced rent increases well over 30%.

So what's to blame for these surging prices? Politicians are scapegoating "institutional owners" and other investors in rental properties. But the evidence doesn't support this. According to mortgage giant Freddie Mac, "Overall investor share of home sales stands at 27.6% in December 2021, which is only slightly higher than 26.7% in 2019."

Large investors, those with at least 10 homes, account for only 6% of all home purchases. The proportion of home sales to investors is smaller today than in 2006. CoreLogic reports that from 1999-2018, "mom and pop" investors accounted for growing portion of the homes purchased relative to private equity investors. Although the share of sales to institutional investors, such as pension funds, insurance companies, banks, and iBuyers (large corporate buyers that often remodel and flip) rose from under 2% in 2018 to 4% of home sales since 2021 — this is still a small portion of all rental homes purchased.

Institutional investors own just two out of every 1,000 of all residential real estate, and just 1% of all single-family rental homes nationwide. Over the past five years, rental housing as a share of total housing declined.

Far from leading the surge in home

prices, institutional and smaller investors are easing the affordable housing shortage. And by often paying below list price — 29.4% less, according to a recent RealtyTrac report — institutional investors may be a counterweight to home price appreciation.

So who are the main culprits? Government mortgage subsidies, the Federal Reserve and local regulations.

Government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) — namely, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac — continue to dominate the mortgage market. Investors who purchase GSE bonds and mortgage-backed securities (MBSs) ultimately provide funds for people to finance homes, and these bondholders and MBS investors enjoy implicit government backing. Approximately 90% of GSE volume is currently devoted to refinances, investor purchases, lower loan-to-value loans and pricier homes purchased by higher-income earners. Government-subsidized GSEs enable borrowers to take on bigger loans and spur housing demand, leading to higher home prices and increased taxpayer risk.

Since March 2020, the Federal Reserve has driven down mortgage interest rates and fueled a rise in housing costs by purchasing \$1.3 trillion of MBSs from Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae. The \$2.7 trillion the Federal Reserve now owns is nearly double the levels of March

2020. Artificially raising the amount of capital available for the residential home mortgage market and distorting interest rates has exacerbated unaffordability.

On the local level, stringent zoning restrictions, density limitations and aggressive environmental regulation limit the supply of housing while increasing the costs of construction. Regulations often account for more than 30% of the costs of rental housing construction. Rent control further compounds the problem by deterring new construction, giving landlords fewer incentives to spend on upkeep and remodeling, and reducing the future supply of housing. New construction the past decade remains far lower than in the decade preceding the prior housing price bubble in part because of these restrictions.

Blaming real estate investors for the resulting misery may score political points. But demagoguery does nothing to alleviate it. Lawmakers can start to restore this bedrock of the American dream by removing federal subsidies from the housing market, restricting the Federal Reserve's power to purchase a limitless quantity of mortgages, and eliminating the artificial barriers to housing supply erected by local leaders. It's time to stop home prices from going through the roof.

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A crucifix erected by local mountaineers marks the peak at Schneibstein mountain at Berchtesgaden National Park in Germany, marking the border with Austria. MIKE ECKEL/AP PHOTOS

Majesty of Bavarian Alps

One US backpacker crosses the rugged trails 'in mesmerized awe'

By Mike Eckel | Associated Press

SCHONAU AM KONIGSSEE, Germany —

At 23 minutes before midnight, at 5,600 feet above sea level, the lashing rain and furious winds outside the darkened bunkroom prompted two questions in my head: Will the roof of this hut be ripped off in the dead of night? Will I be able to continue my ridge trek to my next destination on the German-Austrian border the next day?

Several sleepless hours later, the answers emerged: 1) No, these aren't just simple mountain huts, and; 2) yes, this is typical Alpine weather for southern Bavaria.

And so at dawn, I trekked out, up through the undercast clouds.

The reward was the majesty of the Bavarian Alps, showering glory upon those willing to hike its challenging trails, and maybe endure copious amounts of apricot schnapps from the company of hearty German hikers.

This is Berchtesgaden, a national park in southeastern Germany, wedged into a thumb of land poking into Austria. The Alps slash the skies in jagged granite and knife-drops into sudden valleys.

Berchtesgaden's huts are serious structures. Supplies are helicoptered in, or hefted on cable cars. They range from huge — Watzmannhaus has 200 sleeping spots — to small — Wasserhalm has a few dozen. Some are concrete and steel; others have simple wooden roofs and beams. All serve filling meals: soups, stews, beef and dumplings.

Spend your days trekking steep trails and meeting people. Then swap stories about hiking and life, and then you're drinking beer and schnapps, and then you're fumbling through languages and life tales, and then, by lights out, you're hugging and toasting and laughing and crying.

Trekking into Berchtesgaden is easiest from the northern tip of Konigssee, a 5-mile turquoise lake. Privately run electric boats run passengers up and down the lake seasonally, offering access to Germany's highest waterfall or the stoic lakeside Church of St. Bartholomew's.

Many visitors forgo the hike and instead take the year-round Jennerbahn cable car up 6,200-foot Jenner Mountain, where there's a massive restaurant and spectacular views.

On the eastern end of Berchtesgaden is the Austrian border and the Carl von Stahl Haus, where I overnighed. I ate lentil stew and drank German pilsner into the evening, until the storm lashed us with marble-size hail and gale-force winds. In the midnight hour, the winds banged open the bunkroom windows.

At dawn, the clouds gave many of us doubts. But after climbing farther up a trail, I crested at Schneibstein (7,467 feet) into brilliant skies. The clouds below shrouded everything but the highest peaks.

Trails are well-marked. They include degrees of difficulty, similar to ski trails. They also include not just mileage, but estimated hiking times.

Once I realized that the times were very conservative, I worried less about making it to my destination on time and instead hiked in mesmerized awe.

Wasseralm in der Roth (4,469 feet), my next destination, was a cluster of



The rocky landscape that is a hallmark of Berchtesgaden National Park, a popular destination for hiking.

three modest buildings folded into a hollow ringed by sub-peaks. Torrents of evening and overnight rain sent a raucous stream bursting its banks and nearly turned the buildings into islands.

It also made for a wet dinner conversation. The other hikers and I huddled under dripping eaves before retiring to a common room, where a wood-fired stove dried wet clothes and warmed bodies. Wine, beer and schnapps kept conversation going until lights out at 10 p.m. — a strict rule of the huts.

Those of us headed out the next morning had to ford the stream. Being an American backpacking alone made for good conversation, and I fell in with two German guys and a woman from a separate group as we clambered up.

Surprisingly for a German national park, the trails were in some places poorly maintained and not for the faint-hearted. Some places, we had to pick our way over scree fields, and hold onto steel cables bolted into the hillside. Wood ladders were broken or rotting, rain slippery. Bog bridges were under water.

Karlingerhaus am Funtensee (5,374 feet), the next stop, was perched over a small lake, in a bowl ringed by ridges that caught the morning sun like facets on a gem. On the lake's other side, two low-slung wooden buildings were for the distillers who made schnapps from local waters. There was also a

sheep herder who, I was told, was paid by farmers to mind their flocks in the summer and harvest wool and milk for cheese.

We drank marillenschnaps — an apricot brew commonly associated with north-central Austria — and again, the presence of a solitary American sparked fun conversation, not to mention complimentary schnapps.

Did I mention the boot drying room? An essential element of German huts: rows of heated metal bars to hang up and dry your boots out. If you've ever woken up to sodden boots, the joy of the boot drying room is immeasurable.

Back down to the lake, to meet a boat back to my car, the trail cut deep between two ridges, shrouding the trail in cool morning shade. An Alpine chamois — a type of antelope-goat — scrambled up the grass as I rounded one corner. She appeared unbothered by a solitary hiker, and grazed as we stared at one another, before she hopped over a boulder, out of sight.

When I finally reached the Konigssee's shoreline, it was impossible not to contemplate going for a swim. I had no swimsuit, however.

No matter.

A few moments later, a group of older German men showed up and, without hesitation, dropped their packs and clothes and hopped into the shimmering waters full monty.

Wouldn't you?

CDC ends COVID-19 program for cruise ships

By Laurie Baratti

TravelPulse

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has officially ended its COVID-19 program for cruise ships.

The program was voluntary — though cruise lines couldn't exactly decline to opt-in. It had replaced the CDC's previous Conditional Sailing Order back in February of this year.

Cruise lines operating in U.S. waters were compelled to strictly adhere to the COVID-19 program to prove they were upholding

best practices for the mitigation of COVID-19 aboard their vessels.

It laid out the acceptable guidelines for passenger vaccination requirements, testing protocols and masking rules, as well as onboard isolation protocols and the parameters for onboard medical facilities.

The CDC announced that it will now "publish guidance to help cruise ships continue to provide a safer and healthier environment for passengers, crew and communities going forward."

This means that the CDC

will provide health and safety recommendations for the cruise industry in the same way it currently provides them for other travel sectors. This brings a welcome end to the days of the cruise sector being singled out by authorities and designated as a higher-risk mode of travel.

"I am somewhat conflicted about this happening," said John Maddox, owner of Tropical Getaways Travel. "I am thrilled that the days of the cruise lines being treated unfairly are hopefully over. I am hopeful that

pre-cruise testing, which has been a source of anxiety for many, will be phased out."

But he would still like to have confidence that the cruise lines are continuing to practice the highest degree of health and safety measures.

Travelers shouldn't assume they can forgo pre-departure testing or vaccination requirements just yet. In the absence of the CDC's program, measures for mitigating the disease's spread will be left up to the cruise companies to decide for themselves.



The Carnival Cruise Line ship Mardi Gras docks at Port Canaveral, Florida. JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL 2021

Swiss make mountains fun in Appenzell



Rick Steves

I'm high in the Swiss Alps in a tiny mountain hut on a perch called Ebenalp. Here, a spry grandpa in a sweater as worn as his face pulls a wide-eyed child onto his lap to teach him to drum with old wooden spoons, as the old-timer next to him pumps on his squeezebox. Tall, sloppy mugs of beer stoke the commotion. I'm immersed in the conviviality, but eventually climb upstairs to my lofty bunk.

Hours later, unable to sleep, I poke my head out of the tiny window and look wearily down on the raging party. Finally, the gang packs up their rucksacks and hikes out, disappearing over the ledge and into the moonlit forest. When their singing voices finally fade, it's quiet and I sleep, marveling at how the Swiss make mountains fun.

I'm in Appenzell, a region with none of the famous mountains but a hearty dose of Alpine cow culture. Appenzell is Switzerland's most traditional region — and long the butt of jokes because of it. They say you should set your watch back 10 years when you cross the cantonal border. Entire villages meet in town squares to vote. Until 1989, the women of Appenzell couldn't vote on local issues. But the region has become more progressive. Locals brag that in 2000 its schools were the first in Switzerland to make English — rather than French — mandatory.

A gentle beauty blankets this region of green, rolling hills, watched over by the 8,200-foot Mount Santis. As you travel, you'll enjoy an ever-changing parade of finely carved chalets, traditional villages and cows moaning "milk me." While farmers' bikini-clad daugh-



At Switzerland's Ebenalp, you can stay in this cliffside guesthouse and enjoy stunning mountain scenery. **CAMERON HE WITT**

ters make hay, old ladies with scythes walk the steep roads, looking as if they just pushed the Grim Reaper down the hill. When locals are asked about Appenzell cheese, they clench their fists as they answer, "It's the best." (It is, without a doubt, the smelliest.)

If you're here in late August or early September, there's a good chance you'll get in on the ceremonial procession of flower-decked cows and whistling herders in formal, traditional costumes. The festive march down from the high pastures is a spontaneous move by the herding families, and when they finally do burst into town (a slow-motion Swiss Pamplona), locals become children again, running

joyously into the streets.

In Appenzell's towns, kids play "barn" instead of "house," while Mom and Dad watch yodeling on TV. The dairy heritage is a point of local pride. Folk museums feature old-fashioned cheese-making demonstrations, peasant houses, fascinating embroidery, cow art and folk-craft demonstrations.

For me, Appenzell's highlight is a quaint and rustic old hut built into a cliff at about 5,000 feet, just below a peak called Ebenalp. By chance it's more accessible than it should be — just a short hike down from the top of the Wasserauen cable car (5 miles south of Appenzell town).

From the summit where the lift leaves, you savor the

360-degree Alpine view and then head downhill. The trail leads through a prehistoric cave (slippery and dimly lit — hold the railing, and you'll soon return to daylight) and the 400-year-old Wildkirchli cave church (hermit monks lived and worshiped here from 1658 to 1853), to Aescher-Gasthaus am Berg, a 160-year-old guesthouse built precariously into the cliff. Originally a hut housing farmers, goats and cows, Aescher evolved into a guesthouse for pilgrims coming to the monks for spiritual guidance. Today, the hermit monks are long gone and it welcomes tourists communing with nature, offering cheap dorm beds and homemade cheese tarts — made with Appenzeller cheese, of course.

From Ebenalp's sunny cliffside perch, you can almost hear the cows munching on the far side of the valley. In the distance, nestled below Santis' peak, is the isolated Seetalpsee lake. Only the paragliders, like neon jellyfish, tag your world as 21st century.

Aescher-Gasthaus am Berg has only rainwater and no shower. Weekends often come with live music and rowdy parties going into the wee hours. The hut is literally built into the cliff; its back wall is the rock itself. From the toilet, you can study alpine geology and architecture. Sip your coffee on the deck, sheltered from drips by the gnarly overhang 100 feet above. The guestbook goes

back to 1940, there's a fun drawer filled with an alpine percussion section, and the piano in the comfortable dining/living room was brought in by helicopter.

Those hermit monks may be long gone, but I can't think of a better place to commune with nature while immersed in traditional Swiss Alpine culture than in a mountain hut high in Appenzell.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours. This article was adapted from his book, *"For the Love of Europe."* You can email Rick at rick@ricksteves.com and find him on Facebook.

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Van Ness Wu loves the great outdoors

By Jae-Ha Kim

Tribune Content Agency

Two decades after leaving his native California to launch his career overseas, musician and actor Van Ness Wu is celebrating the release of his first all-English-language album "Take a Ride." Over the years, the multilingual artist has collaborated with singers like Beyoncé and Bruno Mars, but Wu's latest collection of songs pays homage to his childhood musical influences (Michael Jackson, Prince, A Tribe Called Quest), while putting a fresh spin on his unique sound that incorporates hip-hop, pop and rhythm and blues. Given that his busy schedule takes him around the world often, it's not surprising to learn that the singer-songwriter penned songs for "Take a Ride" while in London, Kyoto and Malibu. As for this interview, Wu answered questions from his hotel room in Changsha, China.

Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?

A: To make sure you have all the right travel necessities, to be adventurous and explore as much as you can and to also be fully present in the moment of where you are. Above all, be grateful and soak up as much as you can for inspiration to draw from later on. I really enjoy nature so to see things in their natural state is a real treat.

Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?

A: Probably the mountains in California some-



Musician Van Ness Wu said one day he hopes to travel to

where. Went camping with a couple buddies of mine last year and we camped at a private shooting range where we were able to practice and camp there.

Cooking your own food, survival of one's own abilities — was a real fun guys' trip.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: It's so hard to just narrow it down to one place because each destination has inspired me in so many different ways. I could say Japan because of (my) friends, good food (and) the hot springs in the winter time. Or the seafood and sea views of Positano (Italy). I could even say the excitement of raw nature when on safari in South Africa. But the one that sticks out the most right now was the simplicity of Hawaii. The North Shore was a very relaxing time when I took my family with me and we just lounged out at a beach house for 10 days. It was seriously one that has been

hard to top.

Q: What are some untapped destinations that people should know about?

A: I really enjoyed my short trip to Munich when my sister and I traveled there for "The Amazing Race China." It was so beautiful and clean. I haven't had enough time to fully venture out, but I told myself I would definitely want to go back again. I remember seeing a castle in the far off mountains and it just seemed so magical.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: Egypt to see the pyramids. It blows my mind — the magnitude of the architectural scale (and) how it was built. So I really want to see it in person. I hear many different stories, though. Some say it's safe and some say be careful.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

My Turo rental was repossessed with valuable items still inside

By Christopher Elliott

King Features Syndicate

Q: I rented a car from Turo in Baltimore recently. My family met our host at Baltimore/Washington International Airport, and he gave us the keys to the vehicle. Everything was going well, and we were enjoying our trip until a few days later, when we could not find our rental in our hotel parking lot.

We called all surrounding hotels to see if it had been parked incorrectly and towed.

I texted the host of the car and asked if he had picked up the car. The host did not know the car's whereabouts. I then called Turo and a representative told me to report it stolen, so I called the police. An officer asked for the owner's address and then informed me the car had not been stolen, but repossessed by the lien holder.

I called Turo to report this, and they again advised me to report the car stolen. I called the police officer back. She told me that if I said the vehicle was stolen, that would be considered fraud.

I called Turo for days and days asking for assistance. They gave me absolutely no support. I missed the last two days of vacation trying to track down our rental car to get our stuff out of it. The biggest problem was that my son had left his epilepsy medication in the vehicle. I do not understand how Turo can hold no liability. They know their hosts are breaking the rules with their finance companies, and they let the customer suffer when things go wrong.

Things went very wrong in Baltimore, and Turo has done nothing to help me. They refunded the last day of our rental — that was their only offer. I want my son's medications, our other belongings and our rental fees returned. Can you help me?

— Michelle Marshall, Franklin, North Carolina

And, if it's someone else's car, parked next to a hotel hundreds of miles from home, you definitely don't want to leave valuables, including prescription medications, in the vehicle.

Ultimately, your host was responsible for keeping up his car payments and following the rules set by Turo. You could have leaned on him, but I doubt he would have paid for your son's medication. The next step would have been to contact someone at a higher level at Turo. You can easily find their names and emails online.

Even though you weren't entitled to a refund of your son's medication or, for that matter, for your rental, I think it was the right thing to do.

I contacted Turo on your behalf, and Turo spokeswoman Catherine Mejia told me, "Since the incident, we have been working toward a resolution with this guest, including providing reimbursement for the trip and offering reimbursement for lost items." Turo offered to reimburse you for your son's medication and your missing belongings.

Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer of Elliott Advocacy, a non-profit organization that helps consumers resolve their problems. Elliott's latest book is "How To Be The World's Smartest Traveler" (National Geographic). Contact him at elliott.org/help or chris@elliott.org.

CELEBRITIES

Chrissy Teigen reveals baby bump

From news services

Chrissy Teigen and her husband, John Legend, are expecting another child nearly two years after the couple suffered a pregnancy loss.

Teigen made the announcement Wednesday on Instagram where she posted two photos of her baby bump. She wrote that joy has "filled our home and hearts again" in a post that comes after she had a miscarriage in 2020.

"We have another on the way," wrote the model and cookbook author, 36, who shares two children — Luna and Miles — with Legend. She touched on her fertility journey and being too nervous to unveil her pregnancy.

The couple, who married in 2013, delivered a heart-wrenching post in 2020 after both announced the loss of their son, Jack, at 20 weeks of Teigen's pregnancy. She was hospitalized with excessive bleeding before the miscarriage.

Farah Griffin, Navarro join 'View': ABC's "The View" has named two Republicans — Alyssa Farah Griffin and Ana Navarro — as regular panelists on the daytime talk show, and neither are fans of former President Donald Trump.

Farah Griffin fills the chair left empty when Meghan McCain quit last summer after four years on the show. Farah Griffin is a communications strategist who worked as a spokesperson at the Pentagon and for Trump and Vice President Mike Pence during the last administration.

Navarro, a familiar face as a frequent guest host at "The View" since 2015, was officially named as an addition to the show's group of five hosts.

Navarro has worked for GOP figures John McCain and Jeb Bush.

However, there's a social



Chrissy Teigen and her husband, John Legend, seen April 3, are expecting another child. **AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY**

media campaign to boycott "The View" because of Farah Griffin's hiring, with some fans unwilling to forgive the new host's service to Trump.

'Days of Our Lives' moves to streaming: "Days of Our Lives," the daytime soap that has aired on NBC since 1965, is moving to network parent Comcast's streaming platform Peacock on Sept. 12. NBC announced Wednesday it will replace "Days" with "NBC News Daily," a daytime newscast.

"Days of Our Lives" is the last daytime drama on NBC's schedule. ABC is down to one with "General Hospital," while CBS has two, "The Young and the Restless" and "The Bold and the Beautiful."

Pompeo cutting back on 'Grey's' episodes: Dr. Meredith Grey will be cutting back her workload on "Grey's Anatomy." Star Ellen Pompeo is set to appear in eight episodes of the hospital drama — about

a third of the usual number per season — when the ABC show returns for its 19th season on Oct. 6.

Pompeo is reducing her commitment as she prepares to star in a limited series based on the real-life story of a tangled 2010 adoption involving a U.S. couple. It's for the streaming service Hulu, a Disney corporate sibling to ABC.

But there will be newcomers to help pick up the slack at fictional Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital in Seattle. Alexis Floyd, Niko Terho and Harry Shum Jr. will be among those joining the show as interns.

Aug. 5 birthdays: Actor Lori Loughlin is 77. Actor Erica Slezak is 76. Actor Maureen McCormick is 66. Guitarist Pat Smear is 63. Fiddler Mark O'Connor is 61. Actor Mark Strong is 59. Director James Gunn is 56. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 56. Singer Terri Clark is 54. Actor Jesse Williams is 41. Actor Albert Tsai is 18.

Dear Bewildered: Most of us learn our communication styles from our family of origin. Your husband may have learned very early on that staying quiet was the best course for him. You see this as him not caring about what is going on in your life.

I see this as the two of you not knowing how to engage in spoken communication. It takes practice. Speaking really needs to happen. If your husband always answers, "the usual," when you ask him about his day, he's not providing any information for you two to engage in a conversation.

Asking more open-ended questions might draw him out. Instead of "How was your day?" try, "Tell me about your day." In addition to not telling his own story, your husband is not being responsive, but this doesn't necessarily mean that he doesn't care about what's going on with you.

One suggestion is for you to "call a meeting." In my family, we will call a meeting when we have something important to discuss. This is giving other family members advance notice that cellphones will be down, eyes will be up, and people are expected to listen and participate.

Learning intimate communication is not easy — but it can be done.

Read "The Relationship Cure: A 5 Step Guide to Strengthening Your Marriage, Family, and Friendships," by John M. Gottman and Joan DeClaire (2002, Harmony). Well-known relationship researcher John Gottman has done important work in decoding how people make "bids" for connection.

Once you recognize communication patterns, you can begin to change the way you interact, which will influence others.

Dear Amy: I just got upset at my husband because I found out that he put my mother-in-law (his mom) as his first contact on his driver's license. He listed me as his second contact.

Am I overreacting? I feel hurt because I'm his wife!

— *Hurt*

Dear Hurt: Depending on where you reside, emergency contacts are registered on a state-run "emergency contact" database. This way, these contacts are quickly accessible to law enforcement.

Listing his mother as his emergency contact might have been your husband's first instinct, but I'd say it might be a poor choice.

Of the two of you — his mother or you — which person is more likely to be

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Loving couple must learn to communicate

Dear Amy: I have been married to my husband for 10 years. We have a 5-year-old son.

My husband is fantastic; however, he takes zero interest in what is going on in my life. He never asks me how my day is, or wants additional details about anything, even if he knows that something important is going on.

I have expressed this frustration multiple times.

I will ask him about his day, and he always says, "the usual."

How can I get him to care about what is going on in my life?

— *Bewildered*

able to react quickly if your husband is in an accident? Most likely you, assuming that you are healthy and able, and always have your phone nearby and charged.

All the same, I think you might be overreacting.

Depending on how healthy your relationship is, this seems more a curious choice than a deliberately hurtful one.

Dear Amy: "Betrayed" was mad at her cousin for "taking advantage" of Betrayed's mom when she was providing care for the elder woman!

Just looking at it from a monetary perspective, if the cousin spent 40 hours a week at minimum wage, she should have been paid \$1,160 per month.

But, I assume she took care of the mother 24/7!

The cousin had to completely change her daily life to accommodate her aunt, apparently something the daughter was not willing to do.

Caregivers give up their time, their energy, their autonomy and sometimes their health to be the life-line for people who can no longer take care of themselves. Betrayed needs to "forgive" herself and thank her cousin.

— *Took Care of My Mom*

Dear Took Care: "Betrayed" made other accusations against her cousin, but I agree that from a monetary point of view, the cousin absolutely should have been compensated for her service.

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'Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin' haunts teens for mothers' past

By Kate Feldman

New York Daily News

As if high school weren't traumatizing enough, "Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin" adds a masked killer into the mix.

The HBO Max slasher show, which is the fourth series in the "Pretty Little Liars" franchise, recently premiered and follows a group of teen girls as they're tormented by a mysterious, murderous madman.

"(The girls) are dealing with larger-than-life things, and their lives are literally on the line," said Chandler Kinney, 21, who plays horror movie buff Tabby. "Especially in 'Original Sin,' where our version of (the villain) is cutthroat — metaphorically and literally."

"Original Sin" is more a scarier, gorier revival of "Pretty Little Liars," the Freeform mystery thriller that ran for seven seasons between 2010 and 2016, than it is a sequel or even a spinoff. A spinoff, "Ravenswood," and a sequel, "The Perfectionists," already failed.

Instead, "Original Sin" exists in the same universe, miles away in Millwood, a more blue-collar town than Rosewood, where the five Liars don't know each other.

Tabby, pregnant teen Imogen (Bailee Madison); ballerina Faran (Zaria); high school athlete Noa (Maia Reficco), who's straight out of juvy; and introverted computer nerd Mouse (Malia Pyles) are brought together to take down the school bully, a cheerleader named Karen (Mallory Bechtel).

"The love story of this season is this friendship and the evolution of the relationship between girls who didn't start out as friends but become more like family," co-executive producer Lindsay Calhoun Bring said.



Bailee Madison, from left, Chandler Kinney, Malia Pyles, Zaria and Maia Reficco in "Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin." **HBO MAX**

"Original Sin" falls more into the slasher genre, complete with its own version of a creepy shadow who goes by "A" and sends haunting texts just like in the original series but also stalks the girls, masked and armed. The show is steeped in callbacks and homages to horror classics of the '80s and '90s. But it's also about five teenage girls trying to survive being teenage girls.

"We find these girls in a place in their life when all of them, individually, are experiencing a level of trauma and tragedy," said Kinney. "They feel very isolated in what they're going through. And then collectively, the friendship is borne from the trauma of the mystery and this assailant who is literally running around killing people."

"A" knows something the girls don't and their mothers do, demanding justice for a 20-year-old grievance that ripped Millwood apart.

"We both wanted to tell the story of generational trauma ... of the sins of the mother falling on the child," Calhoun Bring said of herself and co-executive producer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa.

As if "A" weren't enough, the Liars are also facing what Calhoun Bring and

Aguirre-Sacasa called "real-life horrors," like teenage pregnancies and high school bullies and everything else that normal girls go through.

"The violence, we kind of classified it as horror-movie violence," said Aguirre-Sacasa.

"The more real-world horrors that the girls are facing, we're always gut-checking and making sure we weren't overwhelming the story or overwhelming the characters. We want them to be triumphant, and we don't want them to be broken victims."

At the end of the original "Pretty Little Liars," Spencer, Alison, Aria, Hanna and Emily did triumph, taking down their own Big Bad, Spencer's secret twin Alex Drake. "Original Sin" dispenses with the "secret" angle immediately, with Karen and her sister, the meeker twin Kelly. That's a nod to their predecessor characters, the showrunners said, but it's not the only one.

"Starting with episode six, the Easter eggs start coming fast and furious," Aguirre-Sacasa teased. "And they're not subtle. They're literally neon signs. They start, and they go up to literally the last minute of the last episode."

"A" knows something the girls don't and their mothers do, demanding justice for a 20-year-old grievance that ripped Millwood apart.

As if "A" weren't enough, the Liars are also facing what Calhoun Bring and

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Using your money to throw your weight around may be tempting now, as you might feel like your desire to assert yourself won't be taken seriously without material evidence. Make sure whatever you do is worth it for you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Somebody you interact with might be driving you crazy. Consider the possibility that you're provoked because they remind you of a family issue. Instead of creating new problems for yourself, take this occasion to intentionally shed light on any parts of your background that you haven't resolved yet.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

A conversation about routine tasks could explode into a conflict. Even if how the conversation starts is difficult, you're probably better off having it anyway. Try not to take words said in the heat of the moment personally, but do take them seriously.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Psyching yourself up to take a chance that you're considering might be difficult. Once you get others involved, it can be hard to dial their involvement back, because they may feel like they have a stake in the outcome. Only open the door on your privacy if you're ready to lose it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Aug. 5, 1884: the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1914: what's believed to be the first electric traffic

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

Feeling current security could be just the push you need to take a big gamble. You may be a little scared about pursuing a promising but challenging professional prospect. When it's clear that at least some things will stay the same, the prospect of this change might seem less daunting.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

You might need to be honest with yourself about why a topic that interests you is kept secret. While some ideas are promising ones that just haven't spread widely yet, others have a shady reputation for valid reasons. Make a careful effort to discern which side of the cutting edge you want to be on.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Seeking advice from friends on a money matter seems like a good idea today. However, something about your situation could be a bit abnormal, making it hard for your peers to give you guidance. Perhaps they know who can help you, even if they aren't qualified themselves.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

You could feel pressure to socialize with friends in a loud and public way, but you're better off being honest about your needs. There's a chance someone will be interested in the sort of deep conversations you prefer. Don't count on being the most profound person in the room!

light system was installed in Cleveland, Ohio, at the intersection of East 105th Street and Euclid Avenue.

In 1957: the teenage dance

show "American Bandstand," hosted by Dick Clark, made its network

debut on ABC-TV.

In 1962: Marilyn Monroe,

36, was found dead in her

home; her death was ruled a probable suicide.

In 1964: U.S. Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. became the first American flier to be shot down and captured by North Vietnam; he was held prisoner until February 1973.

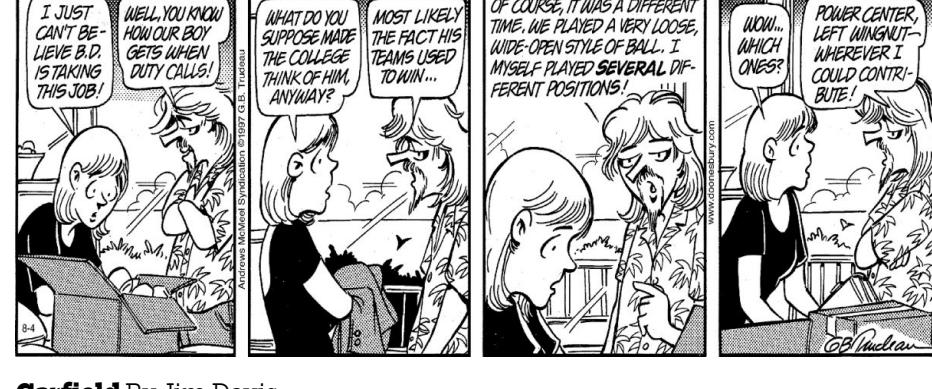
In 2020: a city commission in Minneapolis blocked a November vote on a proposal to dismantle the city's police department in the wake of George Floyd's death.

A production error caused the comics and puzzles for Aug. 5, 2022, to run yesterday. Yesterday's comics and puzzles can be found below. We apologize for the error.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



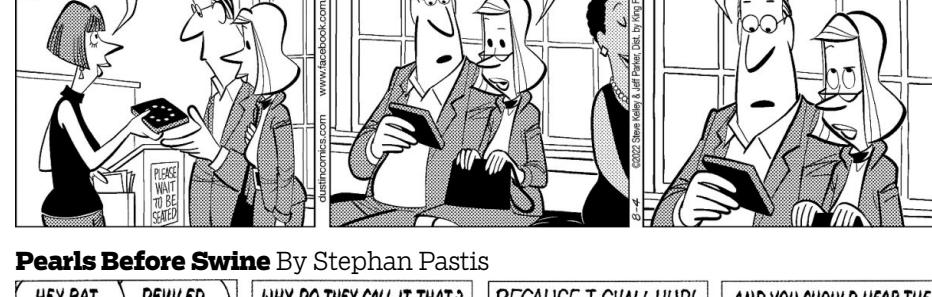
Garfield By Jim Davis



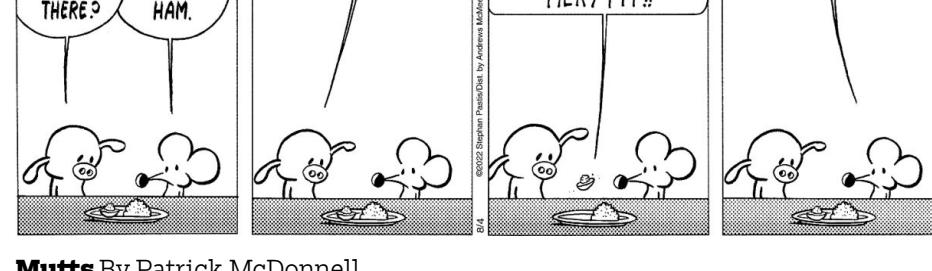
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



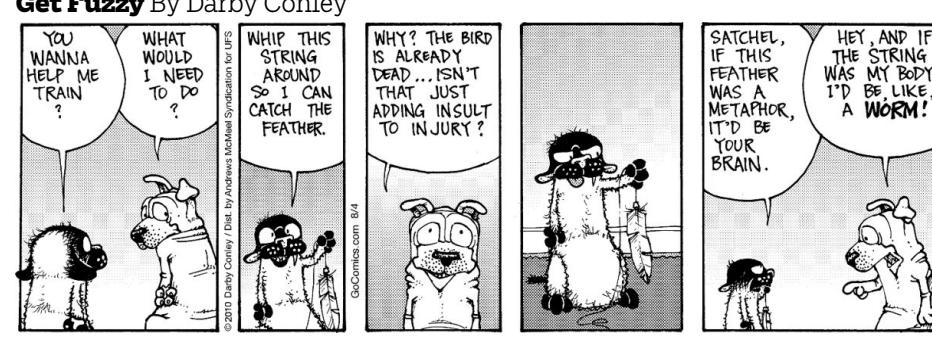
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



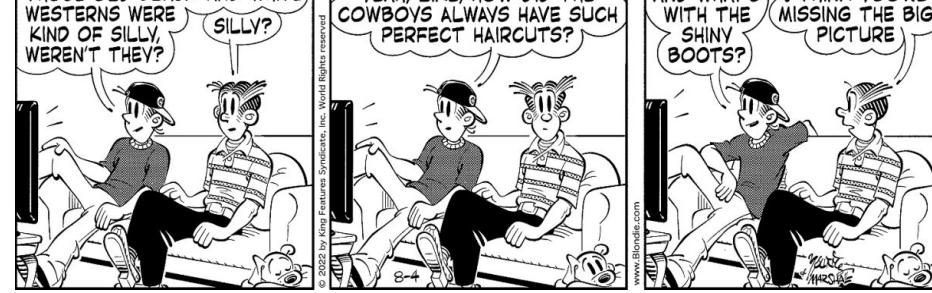
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



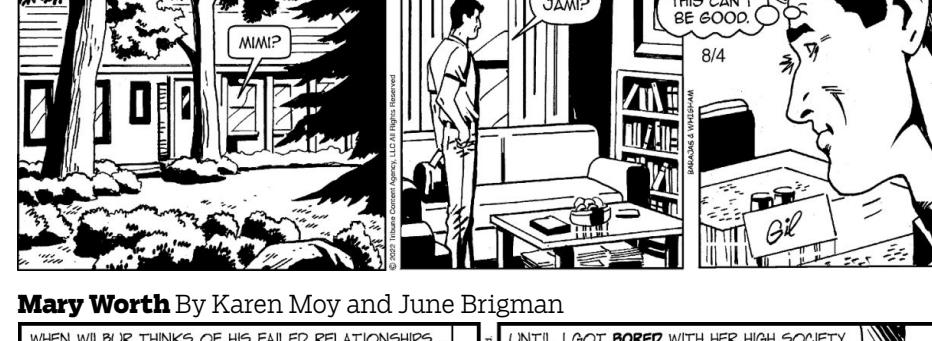
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Henry Barajas and Rod Whigham



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



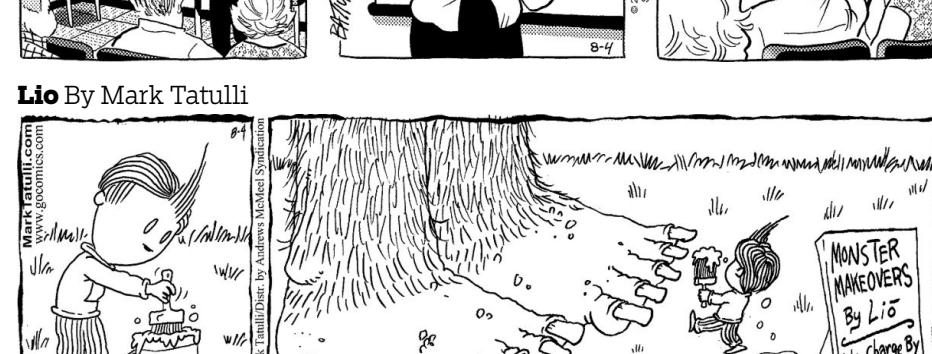
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

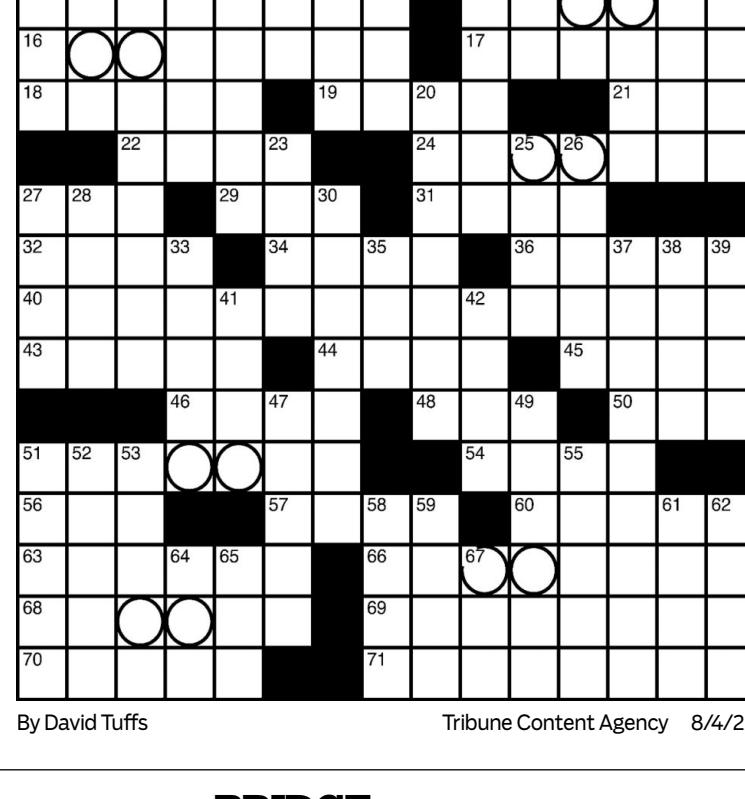
1 Rigid marching style
9 WNBA great Taurasi with five Olympic gold medals
14 Scrapbook contents
15 Part of the stock market cycle
16 What lovers have
17 Thrift shop transaction
18 Protective lymphocyte
19 buco
21 Sought office
22 Some whiskies
24 Artifacts in ancient tombs
27 Actor Daniel __ Kim
29 Pitiful
31 Store with Småland play areas
32 Fashion designer Gucci
34 Shop clamp
36 Peony support
40 High-stakes gamble, and how the answers with circles can be read
43 Photo app filter shade
44 Loaded
45 Pentagon measure
46 Forum robe
48 Old Rom. ruler
50 Night sch. student's goal
51 Come into flower
54 Genesis twin
56 Court stat
57 Court setting
60 "Mi casa es su casa" speaker

Down

63 Woman of mystery
66 Gave a dirty look
68 Went out, as a bulb
69 Water, facetiously
70 Way up or way down
71 Patisserie array

10 Site of many errant apostrophes
11 Pitfall! platform
12 Director of a Batman film trilogy
13 Chorus of agreement
15 Stream
20 "The poetry of reality," per Richard Dawkins
23 Menu option
25 End of Oktober?
26 Jazz great Earl __ Hines
27 Root beer brand since 1937
28 Sunscreen additive
30 Shoebox project
33 Memorial bios
35 Lanka
37 Instrument that never needs tuning?
9 Female koala

38 Jeans patch site
39 Quaint cry
41 Thailand neighbor
42 Sighed words
47 Spoil
49 Biblical book partly by King David
51 Little nails
52 Not shady
53 Only U.S. president born in Hawaii
55 Entertain
58 FaceTime tablet
59 Ore deposit
61 Hanukkah moolah
62 Many Sharon Olds poems
64 Informal "You're oversharing"
65 "That girl?"
67 "Viva __ Vegas"



By David Tuffs

Tribune Content Agency 8/4/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.**NORTH**

♦ J 10 9 3
♥ A J 10 6 5
♦ 9 4
♣ A K

WEST

♦ 6 2
♥ 3 2
♦ 10 7 6 3
♣ 9 7 5 4 2

EAST

♦ K 5
♥ K 8 4
♦ A K J 8 2
♣ 10 6 3

SOUTH

♦ A Q 8 7 4
♥ Q 9 7
♦ Q 5
♣ Q J 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ 3 ♦
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

XXX XXX

One of the prerequisites of good defensive play is the ability to put yourself in declarer's seat and try to predict how he is likely to play the hand. East did that in today's deal and wound up defeating what seemed to be an ironclad contract.

East won the first two diamond tricks but was not optimistic about his side's prospects of taking two more tricks. Though he could count on eventually scoring a trick with the king of hearts, the king of spades appeared likely to fall prey to a finesse. East concluded that his only chance lay in trying to talk declarer out of the winning line of play. So at trick three, he shifted to the eight of hearts!

This extraordinary play had the desired effect on declarer. The heart return had all the earmarks of a singleton. This made the spade finesse a risky proposition, since West might win with the king and give East a heart ruff. By the same token, with the king of hearts "marked" in West's hand (and thus subject to a subsequent finesse),

there was no reason to risk the spade finesse.

So, after winning the heart with the queen, declarer played the ace and another spade. East won and led a club to dummy's king. South then crossed to his hand with a trump to take the heart finesse and was flabbergasted when East produced the king to set the contract.

Of course, had East adopted a more normal line of defense, declarer undoubtedly would have tried both the spade and heart finesse and finished with 10 tricks.

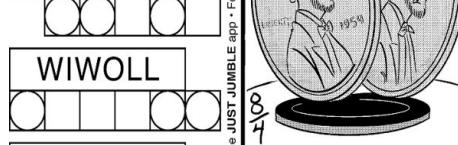
Perhaps South should have smelled a rat anyway. The method of play he chose was designed to guard against West's holding both the king of hearts and king of spades, which was highly unlikely on the bidding. But if East had not planted the fear of a heart ruff in declarer's mind, South could not have gone astray.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

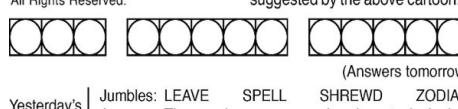
JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



I think we should have shaved the beard for this.
It's a little too late for that opinion, don't you think?
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

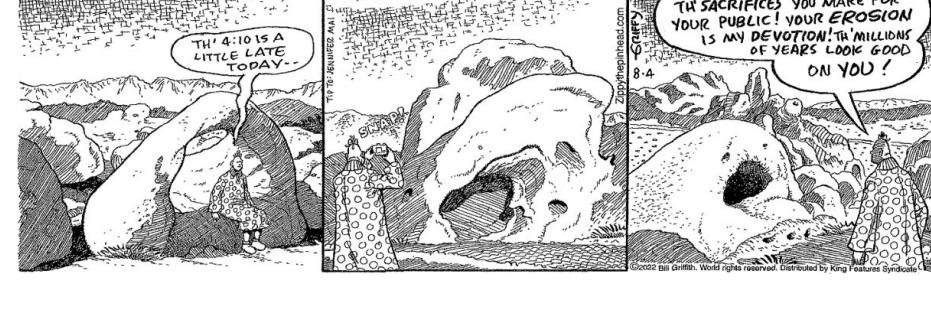
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAVE SPELL SHREWD ZODIAC

Answer: The romaine, parmesan, dressing, etc. looked so yummy, he wanted to — "SEIZE-HER" SALAD

TODAY'S SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (bolded borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

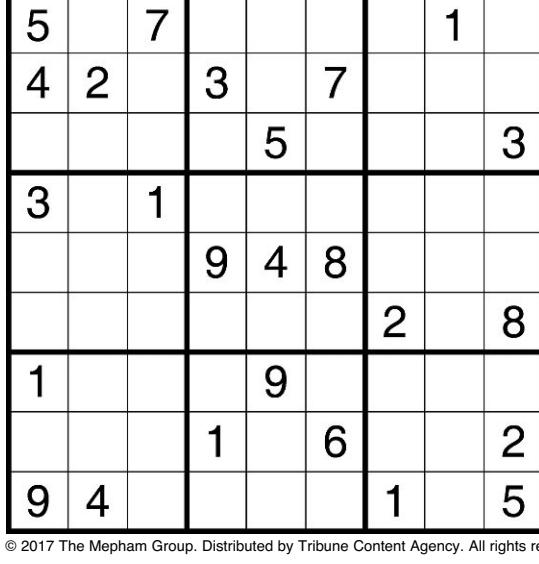
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

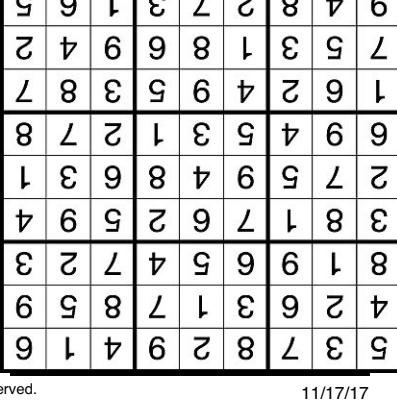
An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at PlayJumble.com

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU



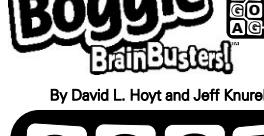
Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

11/17/17

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BOGGLE



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking adjacent letters-to-side, up, down, or diagonally on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE[®]
3 letters = 1 point 151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Garner
7 letters = 5 points 21-30 = Rockie
8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

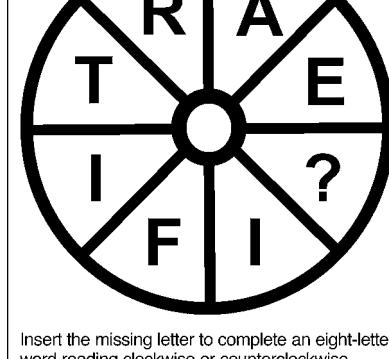
Boggle's BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FIVE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS in the grid of letters.

HAPPY BOGIE BANJO PIANO BASSOON

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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

5-13-20

WordWheel

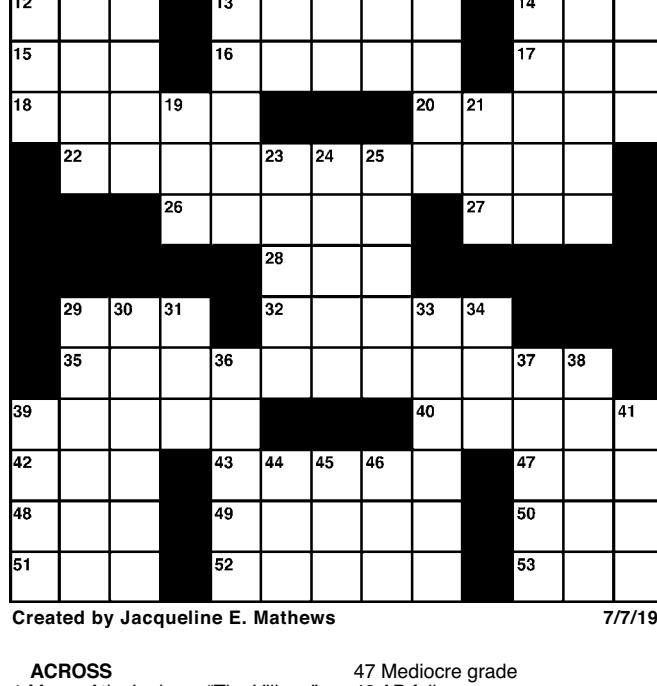


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

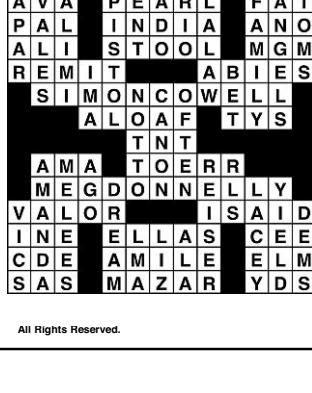
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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

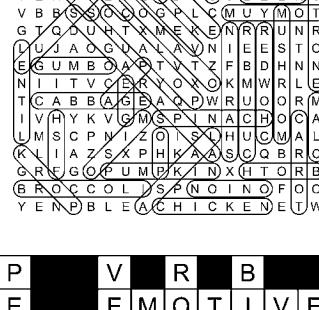


Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 7/7/19

ACROSS
1 Moran Atias' role on "The Village"
4 "Harbor"; Ben Affleck war movie
9 "My Big ___ Greek Wedding"
12 Buddy
13 Priyanka Chopra's birthplace
14 Year south of the border
15 MacGraw or Larter
16 Bar seat
17 "Gone with the Wind" production co.
18 Send in payment
20 "___ Irish Rose"; Joanne Dru film
22 "America's Got Talent" judge
26 "Half ___ is better than none"
27 Cobb & Burrell
28 Explosive letters
29 "___ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
32 "___ is human, to forgive divine"
35 Actress on "American Housewife"
39 "Act of ___"; Alex Veadov movie
40 "I Am ___"; Neil Diamond song
42 Ending for Paul or Max
43 Singer Fitzgerald's namesakes47 Mediocre grade
48 AB followers
49 "Give 'em an inch and they'll take ___"
50 "A Nightmare on ___ Street"; Johnny Depp film
51 Largest Scandinavian airline
52 Actress Debi ___
53 Linear measures: abbr.DOWN
1 On ___ with; equivalent to
2 Pop singer Jerry & others
3 Actor ___ Ballard
4 Handgun
5 Suffix for differ or depend
6 "Much ___ About Nothing"
7 "Blame It on ___"; Michael Caine film
8 Richard Dyras/Jimmy Smits series
9 "All in the ___"
10 "Charlie's ___"
11 Cruise & Hanks
19 "___ Big Girl Now"
21 "You ___ Your Life"; series for Groucho
23 "What ___ Wear"
24 Pachelbel's ___ in D Major; beloved composition
25 Frequently
29 Actress Peet
30 Wild brawls
31 Not long ___; recently
33 "Mad About You" actor
34 Author Stevenson's initials
36 "___ of Jeannie"
37 "Cagney & ___"
38 Give in
39 Damone & Tabyack
41 FDR & JFK
44 Monogram for author Alcott
45 Wife to Todd, Fisher & Burton
46 So. state

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Soups



JUMBLE

JUMBLE
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATVIL



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OYARN



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OBEWLB



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EDDGER



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DREAMBOAT

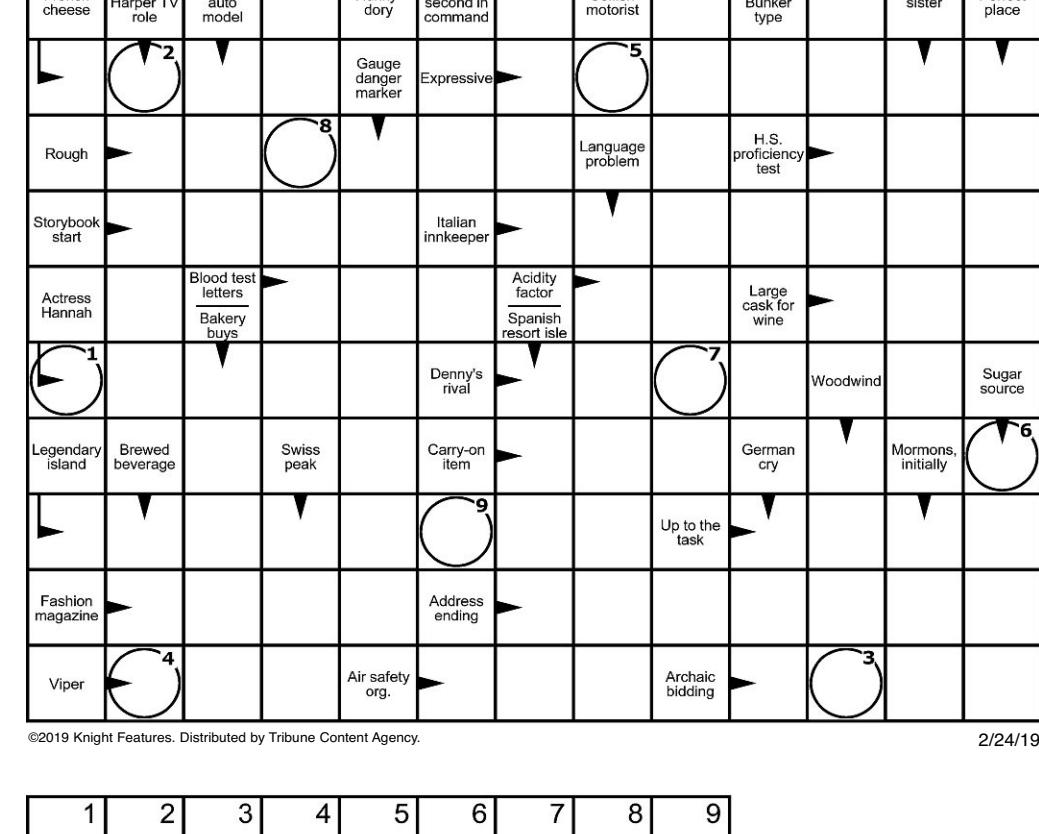


Check out the new free JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff KnurekWHEN IT CAME TO THE DESIGN OF HIS NEW YACHT, HE —
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.Jumbles: VITAL RAYON WOBBLE DREDGE
Answer: When it came to the design of his new yacht, he — WENT OVERBOARD

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



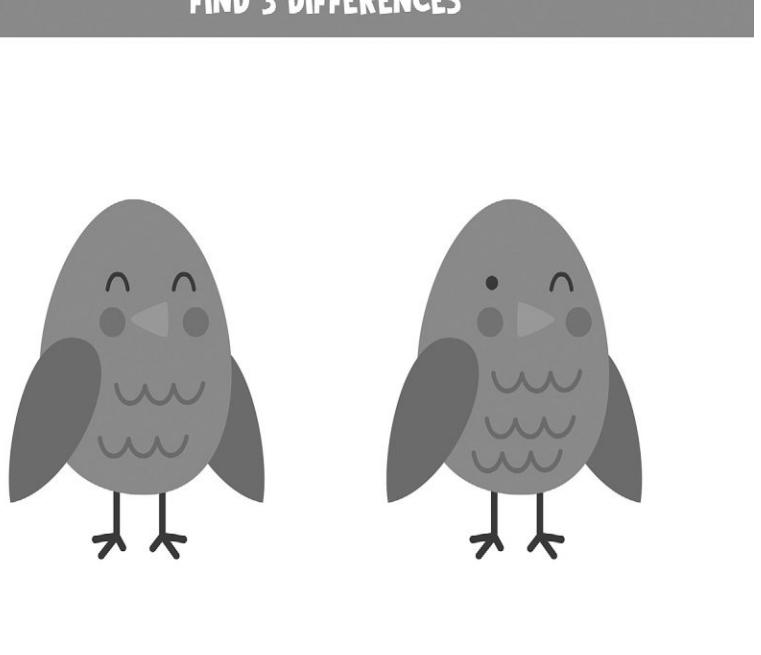
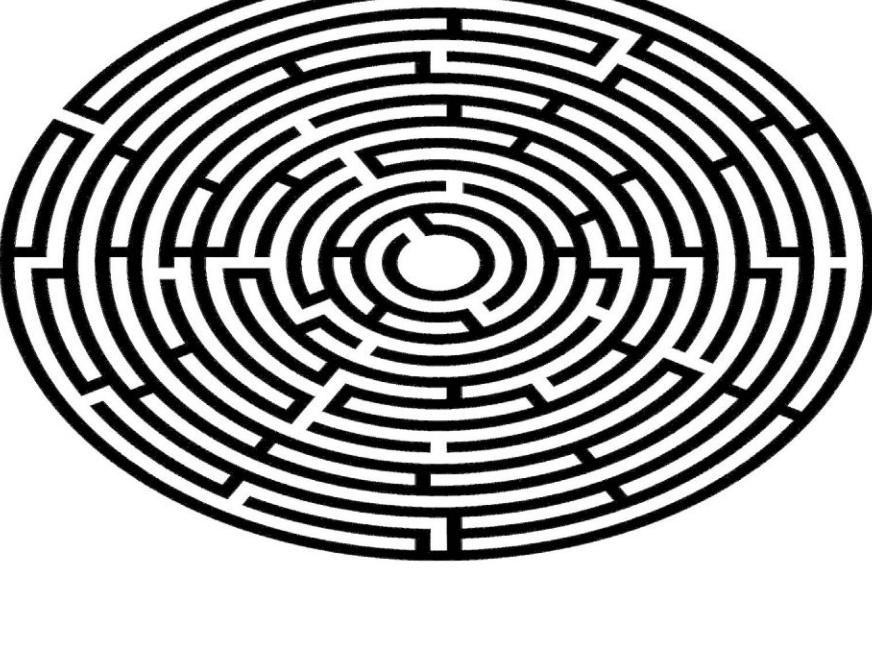
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2/24/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice To: Joseph McCormack, father of child born to Amanda C on 1/20/20

A petition has been filed seeking: termination of parental rights of the above named child(ren).

The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 8/25/22 @ 12:45pm at SCJM 25 School Street, Rockville, CT, 06006

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of Hartford Springs, CT

Name of Judge Honorable Jassette Henry Signed Tiffany Thibodeau Date signed 8/22/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to afford a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

8/22/22 7265275

NOTIFICATION OF AQUATIC TREATMENT LAKE WILLIAMS - LEBANON, CT

In accordance with the Connecticut DEEP Pesticide Division notification requirements, portions of Lake Williams in Lebanon will be chemically treated with USEPA/ CT DEEP registered herbicides and algacides to control nuisance aquatic vegetation on Thursday, August 11, 2022. Lake Williams will be treated with Flumetsulam (flumazinol and Tribune (disulfotetra). The lake will be closed to all uses the day of the treatment. Do not use the water for the following purpose(s) until the date noted below: Boating, swimming and fishing; No Restrictions, Irrigation; 5 days, livestock watering 1 day, drinking and domestic purposes; 3 days. These water use restrictions do not apply to wells situated around the lake not to pets (i.e. dogs/cats) or wildlife that may drink the water. Prior to treatment, the lake shoreline will be posted with signs warning of these temporary use restrictions.

This work is being performed for The Friends of Lake Williams. Treatments are conducted pursuant to permits issued by the CT DEEP information on the specific date of application may be obtained from the person named below. The treatment is being performed by a licensed firm SOLITUDE Lake Management of Shrewsbury, MA. Contact: 508-865-1000

8/5/2022 7265497

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-store Cube units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 215 Gold Star Hwy Groton, Ct 06340 to satisfy a lien on August 16th, 2022 at approx 1:00 PM at www.storagefeatures.com, com

Dated: August 4, 2022
Charles J. Volpe, Jr.
Treasurer
Danbury War Memorial

8/4 & 8/22 7264078

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-store Cube units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 215 Gold Star Hwy Groton, Ct 06340 to satisfy a lien on August 16th, 2022 at approx 1:00 PM at www.storagefeatures.com, com

Dated: August 4, 2022
Charles J. Volpe, Jr.
Treasurer
Danbury War Memorial

8/4 & 8/22 7264078

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PROPOSALS ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

BID #090722

The Danbury War Memorial Association, Inc. is inviting the submission of qualifications and proposals from firms interested in providing architectural services for State of CT grant funded building improvements.

A copy of the complete Scope of Work can be obtained by contacting the Danbury War Memorial at (203) 743-3932.

A mandatory Pre-Bid conference for bidders will be held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at the Danbury War Memorial, Main Lobby, 1 Memorial Drive, Danbury, CT. Bids from firms who do not attend this mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will not be considered.

Interested firms are requested to submit five (5) original copies of qualification packages and proposals and requested information to the Treasurer, Danbury War Memorial, 1 Memorial Drive, Danbury, CT during normal office hours by no later than 2:00 PM on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

The Danbury War Memorial Association is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Envelopes should be marked: Bid #090722 "Qualifications & Proposal - Architectural Services for Danbury War Memorial Building Improvements"

Dated: August 4, 2022
Charles J. Volpe, Jr.
Treasurer
Danbury War Memorial

8/4 & 8/22 7264078

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Treasurer
Danbury War Memorial

8/4 & 8/22 7264078

Request for Proposals for Design-Build Chimney Repair Services

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #4, Deep River, Connecticut is requesting proposals from highly-qualified and licensed general contractors, to complete a Design-Build of the Main Chimney Stack at Valley Regional High School. A full Request for Proposal is available at www.reg4.k12.ct.us. Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 PM on August 26, 2022.

8/5, 8/12, 8/19/2022 7261859

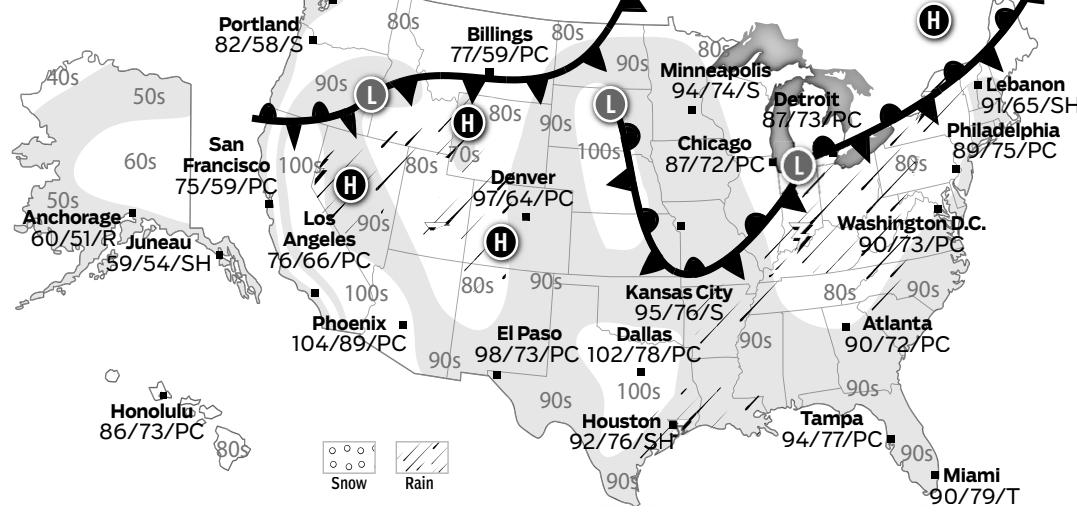
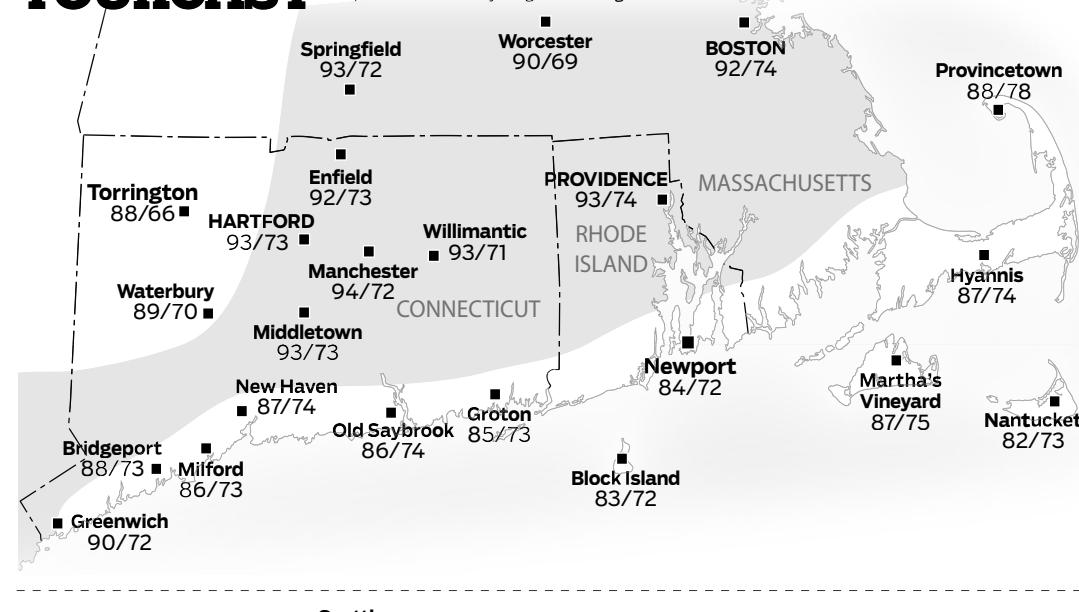
WEATHER

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
SUNRISE 8:30	SUNRISE 8:30	SUNRISE 8:30	SUNRISE 8:30	SUNRISE 8:30
NOON 11:30	NOON 11:30	NOON 11:30	NOON 11:30	NOON 11:30
SUNSET 7:30	SUNSET 7:30	SUNSET 7:30	SUNSET 7:30	SUNSET 7:30

Partly sunny, scattered mainly afternoon showers and thunderstorms around, hot and humid. **93°** **73°** Partly sunny, chance for a few showers and thunderstorms, humid. **89°** **74°** Partly sunny, hot and humid, an isolated afternoon shower or a thunderstorm is possible. **93°** **75°** Partly sunny, chance for a few showers and thunderstorms, humid. **93°** **72°** Partly sunny, chance for a few afternoon showers and thunderstorms, humid. **90°** **68°**

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

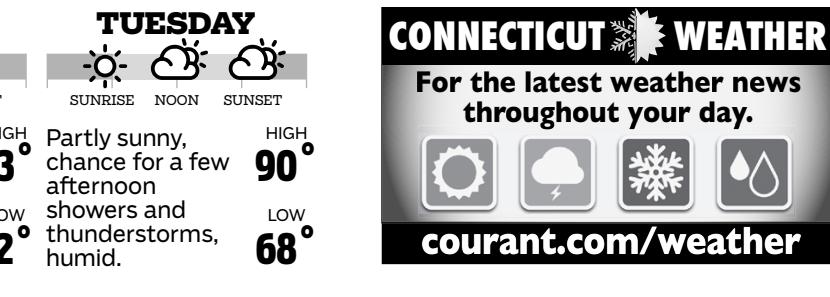


AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		WORLD	
Bangor	87 67 PC	Baltimore	89 74 PC
Burlington	84 68 SH	Bismarck	91 59 PC
Caribou	82 61 PC	Boise	94 71 PC
Concord	92 69 SH	Buffalo	82 69 SH
Montpelier	83 65 SH	Charleston	91 75 PC
Mt. Wash.	64 54 SH	Cincinnati	86 69 T
Portland	87 69 SH	Cleveland	85 72 SH
Woods Hole	87 72 PC	Indianapolis	87 70 SH
NATION		Jacksonville	91 73 PC
Albany	86 70 SH	Las Vegas	92 78 SH
Albuquerque	91 67 PC	Miami Beach	87 81 T
Atlantic City	90 74 PC	Milwaukee	81 71 PC

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms



OUTLOOK

Thursday ended up tying the record high temperature of 96 degrees for the date in the Hartford area and the heat index at the time of the high was 103 degrees. Temperatures and heat index values won't be quite as high on Friday with more in the way of cloudiness around and the chance for some showers and thunderstorms. The threat for a few showers and thunderstorms appears to be a daily occurrence over the next five days as a stationary front to the west will be weakening into a trough of low pressure in the coming days and remaining in close proximity to the state.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 5 p.m.)	0.00 0.15
Month to date	0.72 0.61
Total this year	23.55 26.95

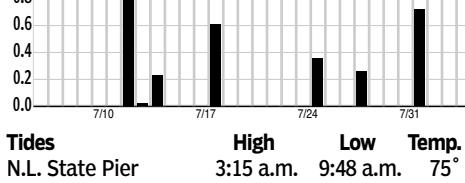
Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Moderate	Very high	84	8	Moderate	98°
Grasses				Grasses	

Air Quality Today Ultraviolet Index Today Pollen Count Yesterday Heat Index Today

Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise 5:48 a.m.	5:49 a.m.
Sunset 8:05 p.m.	8:04 p.m.
Moonrise 1:56 p.m.	3:11 p.m.
Moonset a.m.	12:01 a.m.

Tides N.L. State Pier High 3:15 a.m. 9:48 a.m. 75°
Saybrook Jetty 3:56 p.m. 10:50 p.m. 75°
5:07 p.m. 11:43 p.m. 75°
Connecticut River 7:09 a.m. 2:30 a.m. 75°
5:07 p.m. 11:43 p.m. 75°
Madison 4:53 a.m. 10:53 a.m. 76°
5:16 p.m. 11:43 p.m. 76°
New Haven 5:13 a.m. 11:17 a.m. 77°
5:36 p.m. 11:31 a.m. 77°
Stamford 5:17 a.m. 11:31 a.m. 77°
5:40 p.m. p.m. 77°

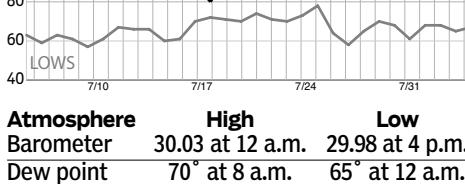
Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	3:15 a.m. 9:48 a.m. 75°	3:56 p.m. 10:50 p.m. 75°	
Saybrook Jetty	4:26 a.m. 10:41 a.m. 75°	5:07 p.m. 11:43 p.m. 75°	
Connecticut River	7:09 a.m. 2:30 a.m. 75°	7:50 p.m. 2:27 p.m. 75°	
Madison	4:53 a.m. 10:53 a.m. 76°	5:16 p.m. 11:43 p.m. 76°	
New Haven	5:13 a.m. 11:17 a.m. 77°	5:36 p.m. 11:31 a.m. 77°	
Stamford	5:17 a.m. 11:31 a.m. 77°	5:40 p.m. p.m. 77°	

River Stage at Hartford: 1.83 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
Weather	AM Fog	AM Fog	AM Fog
Wind	SW, 5-10	SW, 5-10	SW, 5-15
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	96R at 3:05 p.m.	67 at 3:42 a.m.
Normal for date	85	63
Record for date	96 in 2022	49 in 1964
A year ago	77	58
Range this year	97	-2

Cooling Degree Days Season Normal Last Season For Jan 1 - Aug 4 667 523 548



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.03 at 12 a.m.	29.98 at 4 p.m.
Dew point	70° at 8 a.m.	65° at 12 a.m.

ROOFING!



Hartford Courant
SPORTS
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WNBA

Griner sentenced to 9 years at Russian trial

By Jim Heintz

Associated Press

KHIMKI, Russia — U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner was convicted Thursday in Russia of drug possession and smuggling and was sentenced to nine years behind bars in a politically charged case that could lead to a high-stakes prisoner exchange between Washington and Moscow.

The 31-year-old Griner, a two-time U.S. Olympic champion and a eight-time all-star with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, listened with a blank expression as an interpreter translated the verdict by Judge Anna Sotnikova, but her lawyers said later she was "very upset." Griner also was fined

1 million rubles (about \$16,700).

U.S. President Joe Biden denounced as "unacceptable" the verdict and sentence, which came amid soaring tensions between the U.S. and Russia over Ukraine.

"I call on Russia to release her immediately so she can be with her wife, loved ones, friends, and teammates," Biden said, adding that he would continue to work to bring home Griner and Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia on an espionage conviction.

Outside court, the U.S. Embassy's chargé d'affaires Elizabeth Rood called the outcome "a miscarriage of justice."

Griner has been detained since Feb. 17 after police said they found vape cartridges containing canna-

bis oil in her luggage upon landing at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. She was returning to Russia, where she has competed since 2014.

As she was led out of court, Griner said: "I love my family."

The nine-year sentence was close to the maximum of 10 years that Griner had faced under the charges. Most Russians possessing small quantities of drugs get at most five years in prison, lawyers said.

Defense attorney Maria Blagovolina told reporters later that Griner was "very upset, very stressed. She can hardly talk. It's a difficult time for her."

Turn to Griner, Page 2

American basketball player Brittney Griner is escorted before a court hearing on Thursday outside Moscow. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team uses summer workouts to prepare for Big East

By Joe Arruda

Hartford Courant

STORRS — The intensity is beginning to ramp up for Dan Hurley and the UConn men's basketball team as they continue summer workouts.

The main focus, especially with the four new transfers and the one true freshman in Donovan Clingan, is building the toughness required in what is expected to be a strong Big East Conference.

"These last two weeks we're sending a message about what it's going to be like when we're back here late August into September as we prepare for what's going to be an unbelievable conference year," Hurley said.

The current summer session ends at the end of next week when the players will get a 10-day break before the intensity is turned up more when they return.

At this point in the offseason, practice plans have been critical for Hurley to prepare the new faces and refresh the returners on the challenge of playing Big East basketball at the level that UConn is accustomed to playing.

"There's a lot of intense coaching and demanding of players to compete a certain way. So just preparing these guys for that environment. Try to make the game as easy for them as possible by making practices as hard as possible," Hurley said.

Clingan, who has lost weight and feels much lighter on the court, added, "It fits me well, I love (Hurley's) intensity. I love the way he coaches, you know, he wants to win and I want to win and that's what it's all about."

For next week, Hurley plans for his one-hour practices to run similar to how they'd normally be in October. He hopes to make clear the mindset players are expected to have when they return following their short break later this month.

"Summertime, postseason — it's about individual improvement," Hurley said. "We're transitioning now to building our team and being about establishing roles and responsibilities, and hopefully playing at a championship level."



Connecticut's Paige Bueckers holds her crutches while watching a game between Baylor and Michigan on Dec. 19, 2021, in Uncasville, Conn. JESSICA HILL/AP

Rough road ahead

Former UConn stars Stewart, Taurasi and others react to Bueckers' ACL tear and where the Huskies go from here

By Lila Bromberg

Hartford Courant

When Breanna Stewart heard UConn women's basketball star Paige Bueckers had torn the ACL in her left knee this week, she couldn't help but think back to her own experience going through injuries, most notably an Achilles tendon tear in 2019.

Bueckers, who led the Huskies to the national title game last season after missing 19 games with an injury in the same knee, suffered the tear during a pickup game earlier this week. She will have surgery Friday and sit out the 2022-23 season.

"Really just devastated for Paige," Stewart said. "I'm sure she's asking herself why, and you don't know why. It's just gonna be her journey. It's gonna be her story. It's gonna be the way that she fights back through adversity."

Stewart and several former UConn stars spoke with The Hartford Courant on Thursday to share their reactions to Bueckers' injury, give insight into their own recoveries from major injuries, and offer perspective on where the Huskies go from here.

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Hartford Hospital doctor shares what Bueckers may face during her recovery

By Joe Arruda

Hartford Courant

The college basketball world was stunned after it was announced on Wednesday that UConn women's star Paige Bueckers will miss the 2022-23 season with a torn ACL.

Bueckers sustained the injury to her left knee during a pickup game Monday and will undergo surgery Friday at UConn Health, according to a team release. An update on the timeline for her recovery will be provided following the procedure.

The 5-foot-11 guard missed 19 games last season after suffering

an anterior tibial plateau fracture and lateral meniscus tear in the same left knee. After a rehab period of just over two months, from surgery Dec. 13 to her return to action Feb. 25, she picked up where she left off, averaging 14.6 points, 4.0 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 1.5 steals per game.

The former No. 1 overall recruit coming out of high school in 2020, Bueckers also suffered an ankle injury during her sophomore year of high school and a stress reaction in her right leg due to overuse as a senior.

Bueckers decided to stay in

Turn to Bueckers, Page 4

Free for all: John and Jessie Kelley road race celebrates its 60th running

By Lori Riley

Hartford Courant

When Christian Morrison was growing up in Waterford, the John J. Kelley road race went by his house the first Saturday of each August.

In 1976, the year he turned 12, his 11-year-old brother told him he was going to run it, so Morrison decided he would run the 11.6-mile race too.

"The first year I ran it, it was high noon, I'm 12 years old, I haven't really trained and I'm running 11.6 miles in bad shoes," Morrison said laughing. "And my parents have

no idea that this is probably not a good idea."

Morrison, now the men's and women's track and cross country coach at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, finished the race that year (sodid his brother). On Saturday, he will run the race, now the John and Jessie Kelley Half Marathon, for the 47th straight time, starting and finishing at Ocean Beach Park in New London.

The race is one of the oldest in Connecticut, in its 60th year, starting in 1963 as a promotional event for the Schaefer Beer company at Ocean Beach. It has always been free to run in, and this year it is

at capacity with 1,000 runners expected.

"It was always a big event," said Morrison, 58, who lives in Shelton. "People would come out of their houses and watch you, there were tons of people cheering for you. People would come out with their hoses. There were lots of unofficial water stops."

The race began, according to its website, as part of Schaefer Day, a sports-oriented celebration in the New London area that featured swimming races at the Ocean Beach pool and auto racing at the

Turn to Race, Page 4

John J. Kelley holds his winner's medal from the 1957 Boston Marathon, in the backyard of his Mystic home in 2002. Kelley died in 2011 but the race that is named after John and his late wife Jessie, the John and Jessie Kelley Half Marathon, will take place Saturday at Ocean Beach in New London. The race, one of the oldest in Connecticut, will celebrate its 60th running.

HARTFORD COURANT

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: Preseason: Giants, Thursday, 7 p.m. **Giants:** Preseason: at Patriots, Thursday, 7 p.m.

Jets: Preseason: at Eagles, August 12, 7:30 p.m.

Red Sox: at Royals, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Royals, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Royals, Sunday, 2 p.m.

Yankees: at Cardinals, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Cardinals, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Cardinals, Sunday, 2 p.m.

Mets: Atlanta, Friday, 7 p.m.; Atlanta (2), Saturday, 1 & 7 p.m.; Atlanta, Sunday, 4 p.m.

Yard Goats: at Reading, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Reading, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; at Reading, Sunday, 5 p.m.

Sun: at Sky, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Sparks, Tuesday, 10:30 p.m.; at Sparks, Thursday, 10:30 p.m.

Hartford Athletic: at Memphis, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Indy, August 13, 7 p.m.; Miami, August 20, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

ACTION SPORTS

4 p.m.: Cornhole ACL SuperHole III Finals. (Live) ESPN2

AUTO RACING

1 p.m.: NASCAR Racing Whelen Modified Tour: Clash at Claremont 150. (Taped) USA

BASEBALL

2 p.m.: Miami Marlins at Chicago Cubs. (Live) MLB

8 p.m.: Toronto Blue Jays at Minnesota Twins. (Live) SPRTNET

8 p.m.: Boston Red Sox at Kansas City Royals. (Live) NESN

10 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB

BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.: WNBA { Los Angeles Sparks at Atlanta Dream. (Live) CBSSN

8 p.m.: WNBA { Washington Mystics at Chicago Sky. (Live) NBA

FOOTBALL

11:30 p.m.: Hawthorn Hawks vs Gold Coast Suns. (Live) FSP

2:30 a.m.: Western Bulldogs vs Fremantle Dockers. (Live) FSP

5:30 a.m.: Port Adelaide Power vs Richmond Tigers. (Live) FSP

GOLF

6 a.m.: 2022 AIG Women's Open Second Round. (Live) USA

9:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Cazoo Open, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

2 p.m.: Wyndham Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

6 p.m.: Utah Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

9:30 p.m.: Shaw Charity Classic, First Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF

2:30 a.m.: 2022 AIG Women's Open Second Round. (Taped) GOLF

5:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Cazoo Open, Third Round. (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY

7 p.m.: Hlinka Gretzky Cup First Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) NHL

10:30 p.m.: Hlinka Gretzky Cup Second Semifinal: Teams TBA. (Live) NHL

LACROSSE

9 p.m.: Premier Lacrosse League Cannons LC vs Redwoods LC. (Live) ESPN

RUGBY

2:30 p.m.: Wigan Warriors vs Warrington Wolves. (Live) FSP

9:30 p.m.: NRL Rugby Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles vs Parramatta Eels. (Taped) FSP

SOCCER

3 p.m.: Premier League Soccer Crystal Palace vs Arsenal. (Live) USA

10:30 p.m.: NWSL Soccer North Carolina Courage at Portland Thorns FC. (Live) CBSSN

SOFTBALL

6:30 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Softball Team Orange vs. Team Blue. (Live) ESPN2

9 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Softball Team Purple vs. Team Gold. (Live) ESPN2

Red Sox release OF Bradley Jr.

Boston Globe

Outfielder Jackie Bradley Jr. has been released by the Red Sox, the team announced Thursday.

Bradley, a 2011 Red Sox draft pick who spent parts of eight seasons in Boston from 2013-20, departed for Milwaukee on a two-year, \$24 million deal in March 2021. He then was reacquired by the Sox (along with prospects Alex Belan and David Hamilton) last winter for outfielder Hunter Renfroe.

Bradley was hitting .210/.257/.321 with three homers this season.

Of the 231 players with at least 250 plate appearances this year, his .578 OPS ranked 220th. Even with typically excellent defense — he was credited with five defensive runs saved by Baseball Info Solutions and with saving three outs more than an average right fielder by Statcast — the Red Sox made the decision to move on given the depth of his offensive struggles.

The acquisitions of first baseman Eric Hosmer, who

is expected to join the Sox in Kansas City Thursday, and outfielder Tommy Pham meant the Red Sox needed a 40-man roster spot.

After the Sox acquired Pham, they committed to Jarren Duran as the everyday center fielder while moving Alex Verdugo to right.

Duran, 25, is hitting .232/.280/.384 with seven stolen bases, though he is carrying a .156/.200/.267 line and 36.8 percent strikeout rate since July 3. Duran also has struggled defensively, grading as six runs below average by DRS, though Statcast suggests he has converted an average number of balls in play into outs.

Committing to Duran (for at least the next few weeks, while Kiké Hernández works his way back from a hip strain) will give the Sox a better glimpse of his potential for 2023 and beyond, while allowing him an opportunity to show whether he's ready to make the necessary adjustments to handle big league pitching.



Outfielder Jackie Bradley Jr. plays against the Yankees during the ninth inning on July 8 in Boston. MICHAEL DWYER/AP

The decision to release Bradley is only part of what promises to be a day of numerous roster moves for the Red Sox.

Righthander Kaleb Ort, who logged three innings out of the bullpen Wednesday in Houston, has been sent back to Boston, presumably optioned back to Triple A Worcester.

Righthander Matt Barnes is expected to be activated during the current road trip, though it's not clear whether it will be Thursday in Kansas

City.

Bradley, a Gold Glove winner and the ALCS MVP in 2018, is a career .236/.315/.404 hitter in 964 games for the Sox and is considered by some the best defensive center fielder in modern team history.

The Sox believed that with a return to familiar terrain, he had a chance to rebound from his woeful 2021 season with Milwaukee (.163/.236/.261).

But while Bradley

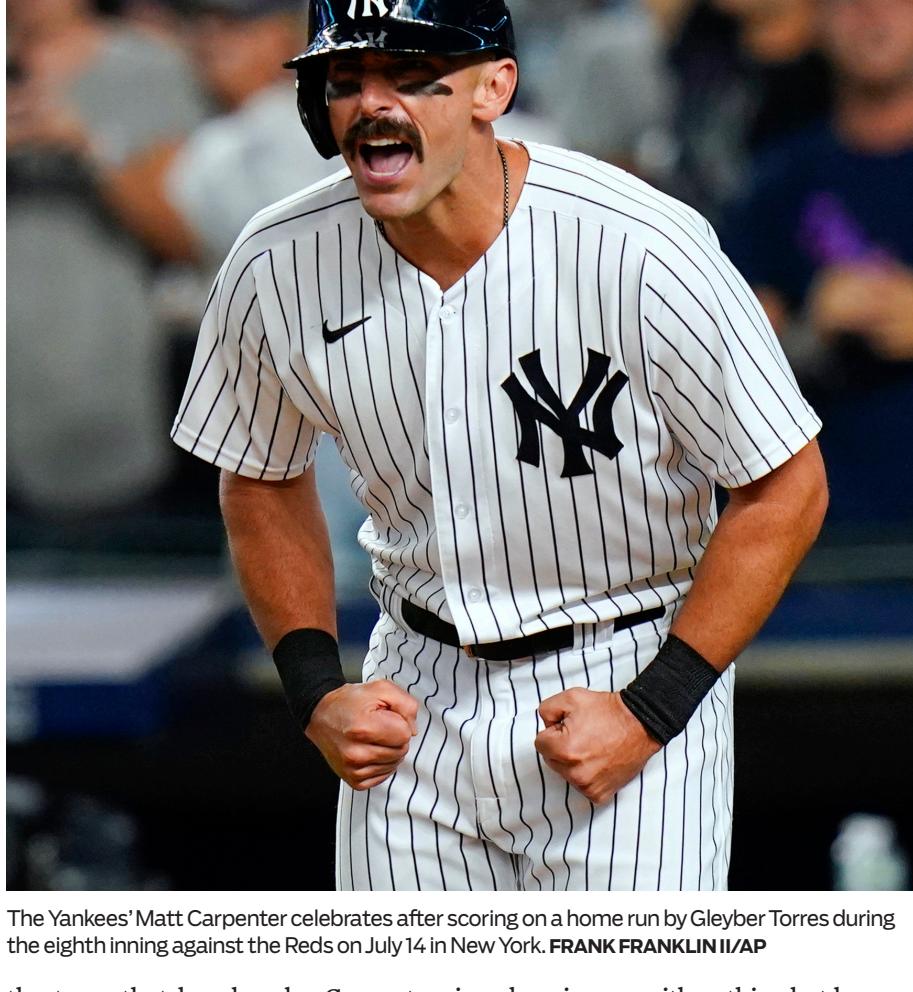
performed well at Fenway (.288/.317/.468 with excellent defense), his road struggles (.129/.196/.167) ultimately proved too great for the Sox to keep him in the lineup rather than giving Duran an opportunity.

Renfroe, meanwhile, is hitting .246/.299/.508 with 19 homers in 70 games for Milwaukee. Defensively, he's credited with eight DRS — which would rank in the top 10 among big league outfielders — but as two outs below average by Statcast (the bottom 25 percent of outfielders). The loss of that production ultimately led the Sox to make the Pham deal.

Between the salaries of Bradley and Pham and the absence of Renfroe, this sequence of moves likely will make the difference between the Red Sox finishing the year over the \$230 million luxury-tax threshold and under it — something with significant implications for the potential draft pick compensation the Sox will receive if free agents Nate Eovaldi, Xander Bogaerts, and J.D. Martinez depart.

Carpenter heads back to St. Louis as a key Yankee

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News



The Yankees' Matt Carpenter celebrates after scoring a home run by Gleyber Torres during the eighth inning against the Reds on July 14 in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

the team that he played most of his career for hitting .322/.435/.791 with a 1.226 OPS and 15 home runs as a key member of the '22 Bombers.

"I think he's back to being the All Star-level hitter that he's been for most of his career," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He's got a great approach, great eye at the plate and he controls the strike zone. When you do that you usually get yourself in a good position.

More often than not, you're going to get yourself in good counts because you're controlling the strike zone, and then he's got the swing that allows him to handle mistakes, whether they're secondary pitches or good fastballs."

Carpenter returns to face

Carpenter signed a minor league deal with the Rangers and played for over a month in Triple-A Round Rock. The Yankees had scouted him in spring training and liked the underlying numbers they saw from his minor league time.

Shortly after Carpenter opted out of his contract, the Bombers were looking for a lefty bat.

Carpenter is taking advantage of the lineup he is in and the place he plays. With the notorious short porch in right field at Yankee Stadium, Carpenter's swing fits perfectly. He's pulling the ball more than he ever has in his career, over half of his batted balls (55.4%) are pulled to the right-field side of the diamond.

Carpenter comes back

with nothing but love and appreciation for the city, fans, organization and former teammates. In fact his only regret is that for all the work he put in while with the Cardinals the results did not come those last two years.

"From my own standpoint, I'm certainly glad I'm playing well, and I'm certainly glad that I'm on the best team in baseball and get an opportunity to play for a championship," Carpenter said. "But I don't have any ill will to where I'm coming in and almost want to stick it to fans, like that's not where my mindset is. I mean I would have loved to have played at this level the last two seasons.

I've worked like crazy to do it, just didn't happen."

METS 9, NATIONALS 5 LATE WEDNESDAY

Vogelbach hits slam for first HR as Met

Staff and wire reports

It was just as beautiful as one would dream it to be.

On a steamy Wednesday afternoon in our nation's capital, Daniel Vogelbach connected for his first home run as a Met. At its glorious apex, the ball sat 125 feet in the air, coming down only when it was ready to land for a grand slam.

"It's always good to hit home runs," Vogelbach pointed out. "But more importantly, we won a series. This was a really, really good team win. [Chris] Bassitt threw the ball unbelievably and we had good at-bats from inning one."

The four-run trot put the Mets ahead 6-0, and they coasted from there to a 9-5 win. Chris Bassitt was his typically understated self, getting just four strikeouts and scattering six hits across seven innings but keeping the Nationals from scoring a run thanks to three double plays. Fielding an unrecognizable lineup that not only is without Juan Soto and Josh Bell now, but also did not include resting veterans Nelson Cruz and Maikel Franco, the Nats tried and failed to come up with anything that could have made the game interesting.

Instead, Vogelbach's strongman display put things firmly out of reach and let the rest of the game creep away like the setting sun. With a first pitch temperature of 93 degrees, things felt sluggish from the very get go at Nationals Park, but Florida man Vogelbach was both well equipped for the heat and the exact jolt his sleepy dugout needed. The last Met to launch a grand slam as his first home run with the team was Adrian Gonzalez in 2018, and other storied names of Mets lore to accomplish the feat include Taylor Teagarden, Omir Santos and Collin Cowgill.

Griner

from Page 1

appeal, and her lawyers say they expect a hearing in Moscow regional court next week. Asked if Griner could ask for pardon from President Vladimir Putin, Blagovolina said they would consider every possibility, but the lawyers said they were not part of any discussions about a prisoner swap.

Griner's agent Linda Kagawa Colas said the sentence "was severe by Russian legal standards and goes to prove what we have known all along, that Brittney is being used as a political pawn." She added

that she supported Biden's efforts "to get a deal done."

A conviction is usually needed before arranging a prisoner exchange and also allows Griner to apply for a pardon. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said last month the "necessary judicial procedures" must be completed before other steps can be taken.

The disclosure in July that the U.S. government was seeking a prisoner swap involving Griner reflected the growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring her home.

The U.S. State Department had earlier declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" — a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

When she took the stand July 7, Griner said: "I would like to plead guilty on the charges against me. But I had no intention of breaking any Russian law." She added that she brought the vape canisters into Russia because she had packed in haste for her flight.

Griner also described a confusing scene while being held at the airport, saying an interpreter provided by authorities translated only

a fraction of what was being said to her and that officials told her to sign documents without explaining what they were. She also said she was not informed of her rights.

Her lawyers introduced evidence that Griner was using the medicinal cannabis for chronic pain and injuries sustained during her career and included a letter from her doctor. Griner testified she was aware cannabis oil was outlawed in Russia and had not intended to break the law or "plan to smuggle anything into Russia."

BASEBALL**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	70	36	.660	—	—	5-5	L-2	41-15	29-21
Toronto	58	46	.558	11	+3	7-3	L-1	34-21	24-25
Tampa Bay	55	49	.529	14	—	3-7	W-1	33-21	22-28
Baltimore	54	51	.514	15 1/2	1 1/2	7-3	W-3	29-20	25-31
Boston	53	53	.500	17	3	5-5	L-1	26-27	27-26
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Minnesota	55	49	.529	—	—	5-5	W-1	29-23	26-26
Cleveland	54	50	.519	1	1	6-4	W-1	27-20	27-30
Chicago	53	51	.510	2	2	7-3	W-2	25-29	28-22
Detroit	42	64	.396	14	14	4-6	L-1	25-27	17-37
Kansas City	41	64	.390	14 1/2	14 1/2	3-7	L-2	22-30	19-34
WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	68	38	.642	—	—	4-6	W-1	34-17	34-21
Seattle	57	49	.538	11	+1	6-4	W-2	27-23	30-26
Texas	46	58	.442	21	9	3-7	L-3	21-29	25-29
Los Angeles	44	60	.423	23	11	5-5	L-1	24-31	20-29
Oakland	40	66	.377	28	16	6-4	W-1	17-33	23-33

BOX SCORES**GAME 1:****ST. LOUIS 4, CHI. CUBS 3**

Chi. Cubs AB R H BI SO AVG

Ortega cf	5	0	3	0	0	.241
Contreras c	5	2	2	1	1	.255
Happ dh	4	0	0	0	3	.273
Suzuki rf	4	1	1	2	2	.255
Hoerner ss	4	0	2	0	0	.206
Wisdom 1b	3	0	0	1	2	.222
McKinstry 3b	4	0	0	0	0	.053
Velazquez If	3	0	0	0	1	.228
Bote 2b	4	0	1	0	0	.259
TOTALS	36	3	9	3	9	
St. Louis AB	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Carlson cf	4	0	0	0	0	.247
Gorman 2b	4	1	1	1	1	.239
Goldschmidt 1b4	4	1	1	0	1	.331
Arenado 3	3	2	1	0	1	.293
De Jong ss	3	0	0	0	2	.132
Nootbaar rf	3	0	1	2	1	.233
Dickinson If	2	0	0	0	1	.223
a'Neil ph>If	1	0	0	0	0	.232
Knizner c	2	0	0	0	1	.214
b'Dman ph-3b1	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Donovan 3b	2	0	2	0	0	.286
c'Pujo ph	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Molina c	0	0	0	0	0	.207
TOTALS	29	4	6	4	7	
Chi. Cubs	100	000	000	—	3	9
St. Louis	000	000	000	—	4	1

One out when winning run scored.

a-lined out for Dickerson in the 7th.

b-popped out for Knizer in the 8th.

c-hit by pitch for Donovan in the 8th.

E: De Jong (4). LOB: Chi. 8, St. 4. 2B: Ortega (13), Contreras (21), Arenado (25).

HR: Contreras (15), off Mikolas;

Gorman (12), off Stroman; Goldschmidt (26), off Stroman.

RBIs: Contreras (39), Suzuki (31), Wisdom (51), Gorman (26), Goldschmidt (82), Nootbaar (21).

SB: Suzuki (6). SF: Wisdom, Nootbaar.

Runners left in scoring position:

Chicago 4(McKinstry, Contreras, Happ 2); St. Louis 1. RISP: Chicago 1 for 6;

St. Louis 1 for 2. Runners moved up:

De Jong, GIDP: Carlson, DP: Chicago 1 (Bote, McKinstry, Wisdom).

CHI CUBS IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Stroman	6 2/3	5	3	3	0	6	4.00
Hughes	1 1/3	0	0	0	1	3.03	
Ueflmi, L, 0-1	1 1/3	1	2	0	3.38		
ST. LOUIS IP H R ER BB SO ERA							

Mikolas 6 2/3 8 3 3 1 6 2.92

Nails 2/3 0 0 0 0 0 0.00

Gallegos 1 0 0 0 0 1 3.35

Helsley, W, 6-1 1 1 0 0 0 2 0.62

Inherited runners-scored: Nails 2.0.

HBP: Hughes (Pujo).

Umpires: HP, Adam Hamari; 1B, Erich Bacchus; 2B, Malachi Moore; 3B, Marty Foster. Time: 2:51. A: 41,734(45,494).

L.A. DODGERS 5, SAN FRANCISCO 3

LA Dodgers AB R H BI SO AVG

Betts rf	5	1	3	2	2	.266
Turner ss	4	1	1	0	1	.305
Freeman 1b	4	0	1	0	1	.324
Smith c	3	0	1	0	2	.263
Muncy 3b	4	1	1	0	2	.168
Gallo If	4	0	1	0	2	.250
Lux 2b	4	1	2	1	0	.298
Bellinger cf	4	0	0	0	2	.203
Outman dh	3	1	0	0	3	.462
TOTALS	35	5	8	5	14	
San Francisco AB	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Slater If-cf

Flores 2b

Iastrzemski rf

Yastrzemski rf

Bogart 3b

Mercedes 1b

b-Bell 1b

Davis 3b

Villar 1b

c-LA Strella ph

Wynns c

Johnson cf

a-Gonzalez ph>If2

Machado ss

TOTALS

31 3 5 2 8

L.A. Dodgers 010 300 100 — 5 8 1

San Francisco 020 000 001 — 3 5 1

a-flied out for Johnson in the 5th.

b-doubled for Mercedes in the 9th.

c-struck out for Villar in the 9th.

E: Muncy (9), Junis (1). LOB: LAD 5, SF 3. 2B: Muncy (11), Lux (16), Bett (8). HR: Betts (25), off Brehia; Turner (18), off Marte; Davis (5), off Kershaw. RBIs: Lux (33), Betts 3(59), Turner (77), Davis (23). CS: Slater (7).

Runners left in scoring position: Los Angeles 2(Outman, Muncy); San Francisco 2(Flores). RISP: Los Angeles 2 for 6; San Francisco 1 for 3. Runners moved up: Machado, Davis, GIDP:

Davis, Slater, DP: Los Angeles 2(Muncy, Lux, Freeman; Turner, Lux, Freeman).

LA DODGERS IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Kershaw	4	3	2	1	4	2.64
Bickford	1	0	0	1	0	4.91
Martin, W, 2-0	1	0	0	0	1	4.19
Ferguson, H	1	0	0	0	0	0.00
Vespa, H, 12	1	0	0	0	2	3.15
Kimber, S, 20-23	1	1	0	0	2	3.07
SAN FRANCISCO IP H R ER BB SO ERA						

Junis, L, 4-3 3/2 3 2 2 3.05

Brennan 1b 1 1 0 0 2 2.47

Rogers 1 1 0 0 0 2 4.68

Garcia 1 0 0 0 0 2 2.89

Marie 1 0 0 0 1 1 5.58

Lone 1 0 0 0 2 3.79

Daval 1 0 0 0 0 2 3.07

Inherited runners-scored: Brennan 2-2.

W: Kuhl (Cronenworth), Smith (Drury).

Umpires: Home, Ryan Blakely; First, John Tumpane; Second, Marvin Hudson; Third, Adrian Johnson.

Time: 3:04. A: 44,652(40,209).

Time: 3:08. A: 34,640(41,915).

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING AVG. G AB R H AVG.

Arraez Min	93	346	57	114	.329
Devers	89	357	63	115	.322
T. Anderson ChW	76	319	50	100	.

SPORTS

PATRIOTS

Rookie Strange holding his own in first camp

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Cole Strange didn't set any expectations for himself entering his first NFL training camp.

His aim was simply to learn as much as he could and let the rest take care of itself.

"Honestly, I guess I really didn't think that far ahead," Strange said Thursday. "It was kind of like, let me get this one rep that's in front of me. Trying to be short-sided and not look too far ahead — right now at least."

So far, he thinks it's paying off.

While the offensive line has struggled so far to find chemistry after some offseason shuffling, Strange has been one of the most consistent players.

A surprise first-round pick out of Tennessee-Chattanooga in April's draft, Strange was plugged into the left guard spot that opened following the free agency departure of Ted Karras. Strange appears to be on track to be the Week 1 starter there between center David Andrews and left tackle Trent

Brown.

After he was drafted, Strange promised he would bring an aggressive and "nasty" style to the Patriots.

His teammates see that, but say his work ethic stands out more.

"He's a good young fella, very athletic," Brown said of Strange. "Willing to learn. Willing to put that extra work in. It's gonna be fun working with him."

The Patriots spent the balance of the first week of camp installing their new offense. Strange appears to be picking up his blocking assignments and has held his own when given the chance to matchup up with starting defensive lineman Christian Barmore.

"He's a great guy to go against," Strange said. "Honestly, I feel like all of them are. They're all great competition. Every time we do that, I feel like I'm getting better. Hopefully I'm getting them better too."

When Strange has missed something, he's at times gotten 1-on-1 feedback directly from coach Bill Belichick, something he thinks

has been invaluable.

"I feel like it's a huge advantage," Strange said. "If I mess up on something and he comes over there and works with me, he pretty much tells what it is I messed up on and when we're watching film, I see exactly what he's talking about."

One thing Belichick liked most about Strange coming out of college was his experience as a five-year starter. That maturity has shown, Belichick said.

"He's done a good job on his assignments, shown a lot of maturity in different situations that we've put him in," the coach said. "But it's a long way to go, and obviously he has talent, but it comes down to production and consistency, and we'll find out over a period of time how that is. Love working with him, though."

Though he's just a week away from getting his first preseason game action, Strange is trying not to look ahead.

"I guess I'm just focused on the here and now," he said. "But I think it's gone pretty well."



Patriots offensive lineman Cole Strange takes part in drills on May 23 at the team's practice facility in Foxborough, Massachusetts. STEVEN SENNE/AP

Bueckers

from Page 1

Storrs this summer, hoping to get stronger and prevent injury. Then, this setback happened.

"We're all devastated for Paige," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "She's worked really hard to get stronger and healthier this offseason, and this is an unfortunate setback. Paige is obviously an amazing basketball player but she's a better person and teammate and it's really unfortunate that this has happened to her."

Bueckers received nine individual awards and recognitions during her freshman season at UConn. She became the first freshman to ever win any of the major national women's college player of the year awards when she claimed all four she was eligible for—the Naismith, AP, USBWA,

and Wooden awards in 2021.

Dr. Kris Ware, an orthopedic surgeon at the bone and joint institute at Hartford Hospital spoke about what an ACL injury could mean for her career.

What is the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and why is it important?

Ware: The ACL is one of four main stabilizing ligaments of the knee. It helps to control rotation of the knee, and also forward translation of the shin bone on the thigh bone. The most common mechanism of injury is exactly what (Bueckers) had, was a noncontact injury, where there's kind of a sudden deceleration, and maybe a little bit of pivoting. When you tear your ACL, the ACL unfortunately won't heal on its own. And so for a high-level athlete, you really wouldn't expect that you'd be able to go back to sports without a reconstruction.

After that reconstruction, what is the typical timetable for recovery? Is it faster for athletes?

Ware: High-level athletes will get immediate treatment as far as athletic training, physical therapy — which I think helps with their recovery. So the college athletes and the professional athletes, they have athletic trainers and physical therapists that are working with them. That being said, the return to sports is still six to 12 months. And we know that return to sports before nine months does carry an increased risk of reinjury.

The biggest part of it is there's individual factors where some people seem to recover their strength faster than others — more than just their strength, their agility and their coordination. Those things need to come back before you can return to sport safely.

Why is a torn ACL such a

common injury?

Ware: Because the non-contact pivoting motion tends to place a lot of stress on the ACL and there's usually not a precipitating symptom that causes you to protect it. And I think that's mainly why we see a lot of ACL tears.

Would previous injuries have increased Bueckers' risk?

Ware: I think that they're separate. I don't think that the tibial plateau and meniscus tear increased her risk for her ACL injury. The reports that I saw were that she had her strength back, she felt like she was stronger than ever. She felt like she was doing well. And so assuming that she went through all the rehab and was doing very well, it probably didn't increase her risk of ACL injury.

Could overworking her body have increased her

risk for the ACL tear?

Ware: Fatigue can. So if you get to a point where you're fatigued, and we see this especially in like alpine skiing, but I'm sure that it's in many other sports, where fatigue results in increased risk that you're going to have an ACL tear.

Will the ACL injury affect her later in her career?

Ware: Not everyone gets back to play after an ACL reconstruction, unfortunately. Usually, once people have regained their strength and their coordination and agility, we can expect that they will do well once they've returned to sports. Down the road, she will be at a higher risk for arthritis. We know after an ACL tear, whether or not you have an ACL reconstruction, there is a higher risk for arthritis. And then there is that risk that she does not get back to the level that she was playing at before.

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

LOCAL AMATEUR BASEBALL

CONNECTICUT TWILIGHT LEAGUE

Wednesday's late results

ORIOLES 5, DODGERS 0

Note: Maloy tossed a 4-hitter with 8 strikeouts. Kiefer was 2-for-3 with 2 RBI and Gram was 2-for-3 with an RBI.

ANGELS 6, BLACK SOX 0

Thursday's results

Rockies 7, Black Sox 0

Rock Cats at Aftershow, late

Friday's schedule

CTL Playoffs—First Round (at Riverfront Park, Glastonbury)

Knights vs. Patriots, 6 p.m.

Rock Cats vs. Aftershow, 8 p.m.

GREATER HARTFORD TWILIGHT LEAGUE

Wednesday's late result

Cardinals 7, Orioles 4

Thursday's results

Expos at People's, late

Jets at Colts, late

Eastern League standings

	W	L	PCT	GB
Hartford	60	37	.619	—
Somerset	60	37	.619	—
Portland	47	51	.480	13.5
New Hampshire	44	54	.449	16.5
Reading	42	56	.429	18.5
Binghamton	37	60	.381	23
Southwest	W	L	PCT	GB
Erie	58	39	.598	—
Akron	52	44	.542	5.5
Richmond	50	47	.515	8
Bowie	47	50	.485	11
Altoona	47	51	.480	11.5
Harrisburg	40	58	.408	18.5

Wednesday's late results

Reading 12, Hartford 10

Erie 9, Portland 5

Akron 4, Altoona 2

Bowie 6, Harrisburg 4

Richmond 3, New Hampshire 2

Thursday's results, late

Friday's schedule

Erie at Portland, 6 p.m.

Akron at Altoona, 6 p.m.

Hartford at Reading, 7 p.m.

Bowie at Harrisburg, 7 p.m.

Binghamton at Somers, 7 p.m.

Richmond at New Hampshire, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE YARD GOATS BOX

SCORE

FIGHTIN' PHILS 12, YARD GOATS 10

Hartford	AB	R	H	BI
Montano, dh	4	1	0	0
Stovali, ss	4	0	1	1
Navarro, ss	1	1	1	0
Lavigne, 1b	4	1	2	1
Toglia, rf	4	1	2	1
Doyle, cf	5	1	1	2
Datres, 3b	4	2	1	1
Maciver, c	5	1	2	3
Hill, lf	5	1	2	0
Collins, 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	39	10	13	9
Reading	AB	R	H	BI
Rojas, cf	5	3	3	0
Vicuña, 1b	5	2	2	2
Rijo, 3b	5	2	3	3
Corredor, dh	5	2	3	3
Frisca, c	4	1	1	0
De La Cruz, lf	4	1	0	1
Conley, rf	3	1	2	2
Guzman, ss	4	0	0	1
Gozzo, 2b	4	0	0	0
Totals	39	12	14	12

Hartford 000-040-015-10-13-0

Reading 614-010-00x-12-14-0

DP: Reading 1. LOB: Hartford 7, Reading 6. HR: Datres, Maciver; Corredor, 3B: Rojas, 2B: Maciver; Rojas, Vicuña, Conley, Frisca, Rijo.

Hartford 2.10 11 2 3 13.50

Kitchen 3.1 4 1 0 5 2.70

Gaddis 2 0 0 0 0 1 4.61

Reading IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Adams 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 6.18

Lemire (W, 1-0) 0 1 0 0 0 0 0.00

Perkins 0.1 4 4 4 2 2 7.48

McKay 2.2 2.0 0 1 2 5.56

Sullivan 1.2 5 5 0 5 0 4 3.86

Marconi 0.1 1 1 1 1 10.446

WP: Gaddis; Adams, HBP: Conley (by Loecey). Umpires: Alfonso, Witte, Krupa.

Time: 3:05. Att: 6,611.

Race

from Page 1

Waterford Speed Bowl. In 1963, the organizers decided to put on a 12-mile road race.

Somehow, it became a 10 1/2

mile race. There were 19

runners in the first edition

and Johnny Kelley, the

iconic 1957 Boston Marath

on winner who lived in

Mystic, won what was called

the Schaefer Race.

"I feel bad for the kid,"

Taurasi said. "I heard she

was looking amazing. And

it's unfortunate for

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

MLS

	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	12	2	9	45	40	15
New York City FC	12	4	6	42	41	21
CF Montreal	12	8	3	39	38	37
NY. Red Bulls	10	7	6	36	38	30
Orlando City	8	9	6	30	27	33
Columbus	7	6	9	30	28	24
Charlotte FC	9	12	2	29	28	31
Inter Miami CF	8	10	5	29	27	37
Cincinnati	7	8	8	29	37	42
Chicago	7	10	6	27	24	28
New England	6	7	9	27	32	34
Atlanta	6	9	7	25	29	33
Toronto FC	6	12	5	23	30	39
D.C. United	6	13	3	21	28	47
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	15	4	3	48	44	23
Austin FC	13	5	5	44	47	28
Minnesota United	10	8	5	35	35	0
FC Dallas	9	7	8	35	33	26
Real Salt Lake	9	7	7	34	30	29
Nashville	8	7	9	33	30	30
Seattle	10	11	2	32	30	27
Portland	7	6	11	32	40	36
LA Galaxy	9	10	3	30	30	28
Colorado	7	9	6	27	30	33
Vancouver	7	10	6	27	25	38
Houston	7	12	4	25	28	37
San Jose	5	10	8	23	36	46
Sporting KC	5	14	5	20	19	42
Three points for win, one point for tie.						

FRIDAY'S MATCH

Houston at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Seattle at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte FC, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
New York City FC at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
NY. Red Bulls at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at CF Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
New England at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto FC at Nashville, 8 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Sporting KC, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Austin FC, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Real Salt Lake, 10 p.m.
FC Dallas at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, ALL-STAR GAME

Allianz Field, St. Paul, Minn.

MLS stars vs. Liga MX stars, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 13

Orlando City at N.Y. Red Bulls, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
D.C. United at New England, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Toronto FC, 7:30 p.m.
New York City FC at Miami, 8 p.m.
Sporting KC at Austin FC, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Colorado, 9 p.m.
San Jose at FC Dallas, 9 p.m.
CF Montreal at Houston, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at LA Galaxy, 10 p.m.
Charlotte FC at Los Angeles FC, 10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 14

Minnesota at Nashville, 9 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Seattle, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Charlotte FC 3, D.C. United 0
CF Montreal 2, Columbus 1
Nashville 1, Portland 1, tie
Miami 1, San Jose 0

NWFL CLUB

	W	L	PT	GF	GA	
San Diego	7	3	4	25	20	11
Portland	6	1	6	24	31	11
Houston	6	4	3	21	24	16
OL Reign	5	3	6	21	15	12
Chicago	5	3	5	20	20	17
Kansas City	5	4	4	19	14	16
Angel City	5	5	2	17	12	14
Orlando	3	5	5	14	14	28
Louisville	2	6	6	12	15	21
Gotham FC	4	7	0	12	9	22
Washington	1	5	8	11	14	18
North Carolina	2	5	3	9	17	19
Three points for win, one point for tie.						

FRIDAY'S MATCHES

Washington at Louisville, 8 p.m.
North Carolina at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES

Kansas City at San Diego, 5 p.m.
Gotham FC at Chicago, 6 p.m.
Houston at OL Reign, 6 p.m.
Angel City at Orlando, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S MATCH

Portland at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

FRIDAY'S MATCH

Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 3 p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Liverpool vs. Fulham, 7 p.m.
Aston Villa vs. Bournemouth, 10 a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Leed, 10 a.m.
Nottingham vs. Newcastle, 10 a.m.
Southampton vs. Tottenham, 10 a.m.
Chelsea vs. Everton, 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES

Brentford vs. Leicester City, 9 a.m.
Brighton vs. Manchester United, 9 a.m.
Manchester City vs. West Ham, 12:30 p.m.

WNBA

EAST

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	23	8	.742	—
x-Connecticut	21	10	.677	2
x-Washington	20	12	.625	3 1/2
Atlanta	13	18	.419	10
New York	13	18	.419	10
Indiana	5	28	.152	19
WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Las Vegas	22	9	.710	—
x-Seattle	20	12	.625	2 1/2
Dallas	14	16	.467	7 1/2
Phoenix	13	18	.419	9
Los Angeles	12	19	.387	10
Minnesota	12	20	.375	10 1/2
x-clinched playoff spot				

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Phoenix at Connecticut, late

Las Vegas at Dallas, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Los Angeles at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

Washington at Chicago, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Indiana at Dallas, 8 p.m.

New York at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Connecticut at Chicago, 1 p.m.

Los Angeles at Washington, 3 p.m.

Las Vegas at Seattle, 3 p.m.

Atlanta at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAME

New York at Dallas, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Seattle at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Atlanta at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.

Connecticut at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 91, Indiana 81

New York 64, Los Angeles 61

Seattle 89, Minnesota 77

SEASON POINTS IN THE PAINT

TEAM	GP	PT	OPP
1. Chicago	31	9.5	41.7
2. Los Angeles	31	9.5	39.8
3. Connecticut	31	12.9	38.4
4. Minnesota	32	11.6	37.1
5. Las Vegas	31	8.9	34.6
6. Washington	32	9.1	34.1
7. Dallas	30	12.5	34.0
8. Indiana	33	11.6	33.0
9. Phoenix	31	8.4	33.0
10. Atlanta	31	10.7	31.9
11. New York	31	9.5	31.9
12. Seattle	32	9.5	31.6
13. 2ND-second chance points, PTP=opp's paint points in the pain; OPP=opponent's paint points			

PLAYER

TM

GP

PITP

source: bovada.lv

NFL PRESEASON

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

AFC EAST

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon	Old Saybrook
Edward M. Ferrigno	Sean C. Macdonnell
Bristol	Other Town in CT
Reginald A. Ruel	Edward M. Ferrigno
East Hampton	Out of State
Edwin A. Blish	Stephen R. Crowell
East Hartford	Rocky Hill
Craig L. Taylor	Lucy A. Bellone
Hartford	South Windsor
David A. Monroe	Gordon M. Giller
Manchester	Southington
Craig L. Taylor	Carol A. Nevriv
Marlborough	Janine M. Sobolewski
Edwin A. Blish	Vernon
New Britain	Stephen R. Crowell
Diane M. Milliot	Gordon M. Giller
Martha Ward	West Hartford
	Edward M. Ferrigno

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES**Bellone, Lucy A.(Vuono)**

Lucy A. (Vuono) Bellone, 91, of Rocky Hill passed away peacefully on July 31, 2022 at The Lodge at Cold Spring. Lucy was born in Brooklyn, NY on January 24, 1931 to the late Joseph and Rosaria (Zanfini) Vuono. Lucy worked part time at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Bloomfield and then full time for 25 years in the emergency room admitting office. Lucy helped to start the first Lawyer Referral program (designed to help people with legal needs) in Hartford, CT. She was featured in an article in the Hartford Courant that called the program "Lucy's baby". She was later featured in CT Magazine as well. She also worked at the Connecticut State Capitol on the Legislative Office Branch as she also worked on the Judiciary Committee as the Chief Judiciary Clerk for another 25 years. She received several awards for her service.

Lucy was an excellent cook. Her Easter and Christmas Eve meals were not to be missed. She painstakingly prepared the "Feast of the Seven Fishes". She cooked true Italian dinners and her meatballs were the best in the land. She would always know if a family member had "taken" one out of the large pot "to taste" and scold them. Her favorite words were "mangia bene" (eat well) and "out of this world" if something tastes good to her. She grew up in Rhode Island and always had a passion for the shore right up till the end of her life. She owned a house close to the Westerly beaches where she enjoyed entertaining her friends and having her family enjoy it as well. Lucy volunteered over 30 years for the Nick Vuono Charity Fund of Westerly RI. The charity was formed after her brother Nick Vuono died an untimely death in 1984. It is a non-profit charity providing assistance to individuals with special needs in the Westerly community. She enjoyed working all year long on this.

Lucy was an avid book reader. During her life she would 'gobble' up all the NY Times top 10 books, fiction and nonfiction. She enjoyed services at the Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church where she started attending in 1964 with her husband (Thomas Bellone predeceased in 1995) and family. She continued to attend the services right up to the end of her life. She has many friends from the church. She enjoyed going to breakfast, lunch, and dinner with them.

She is predeceased by her sister Josephine Cherenzia. She will be sorrowfully missed by her friends and family. Lucy is lovingly remembered by her sister M. Susie Phillips of Washington D.C., son and daughter-in-law Steve and Amy Bellone of Manchester, CT, daughter and son-in-law Valerie and Dale Thompson of Ava Maria, FL, her grandchildren Josh and Liz Thompson of Tega Cay SC, Sarah Thompson and Jenny Thompson of North Stonington, CT, Jason and Wendy Bellone of Redding, CT., Jeff and Emily Bellone of Manchester, CT, Dave and Allie Foster of West Kingston RI and her great grandchildren, Hope Thompson of Rustburg VA, Sophia, Eden, and Lucas Thompson of Tega Cay SC, Sean Sunderland of Gales Ferry CT., Bailey, Colby, Allie, Chloe Bellone of Redding CT., Olivia and Zoey Bellone of Manchester CT., and great great grandchild Foster Sunderland of Gales Ferry CT.

A funeral service will be held on August 8, 2022 at 12:00pm, at the Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, 511 Maple Street, Wethersfield. Calling hours and burial will be private. Please consider donations in Lucy's honor to the Nick Vuono Charity Fund, Inc; P.O. Box 1004, Westerly, RI 02891. email nickvuonocharityfund@gmail.com. To leave condolences, or for more information, please visit farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan**Funeral Home**Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Crowell, Stephen R.**

Stephen Richard Crowell, 57, of Vernon/Rockville, CT, passed away July 30 after a brief illness.

Stephen was born in Falmouth Hospital, Falmouth, MA, son of the late Rev. Richard S. & Marilyn F. Crowell. He leaves his sisters, Martha Crowell of Philadelphia, PA & Cindy Crowell Harding (Rich) of South Windsor, CT, 2 nieces, aunts, uncles, and many cousins. He is predeceased by his brother, Christopher G. Crowell.

Raised in Falmouth, Stephen graduated from Falmouth High School '83 and Cape Cod Community College '88. St. Barnabas Memorial Church was a second home. He loved to sing in the choir, act as acolyte, crucifer or lay eucharistic minister and teach Sunday school. He liked to gather with friends at Tres Dias events, sing in the Greater Falmouth Mostly All Male Men's Chorus, drum in the Brian Boru pipe band, go birding, play cribbage, tell funny stories, and spend time with friends.

He worked at Sea Education Association in Woods Hole for 11 years, then moved to Connecticut in 2003 where he lived and worked in South Windsor, Manchester, then Rockville, residing with his friends at the Massack Home. His family wishes to thank his caregivers at Hartford Hospital.

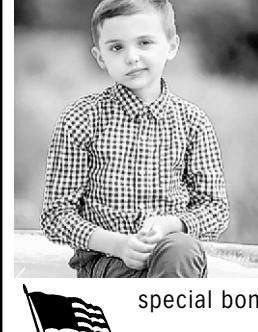
Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2022, 4 PM at St. Barnabas Memorial Church, 91 Main St., Falmouth, MA with burial to follow in the Memorial Garden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the National Audubon Society.

For online guestbook and directions visit chapmanfuneral.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES**MacDonnell, Sean C.**

Sean Christopher MacDonnell eight years old, from Old Saybrook CT, has been called back to heaven. Born on March 23, 2014, Sean is the cherished son of Christine and George G MacDonnell LCDR USCG CC ACADEMY, and the brother of Owen, who is nine years old. Owen was his best friend, and vice versa. They were inseparable by choice. Sean and Owen had a special bond.

Sean is the beloved grandson of Susan and Michael Laraia of Old Saybrook CT, and Celia and Greg MacDonnell of Newport RI and great grandson of Irmentraud Rehm-Laraia. He also leaves behind his much-loved Aunties (Molly and Margo), Uncles (Jonathan and Jim), cousins (Zoe, Michael, Luke, and Cameron) and numerous great aunts-uncles and cousins. Those who knew and loved him could not have imagined, that he was only "on loan" to them for eight years and must be returned to heaven.

Sean was bright and energetic, with an inner strength that earned him the nickname "Strong Sean". In 2018 he was diagnosed with embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive type of children's cancer, and he began treatment on his fourth birthday. His family adopted the mantra "No Bad Days" and have stayed true that motto every day since.

Sean was a quintessential Jimmy Fund Kid, helping to raise awareness of childhood cancers. He was a favorite of Boston area athletes and sports announcers. Dave O'Brien of NESN, referred to him as "a marvel". The Red Sox Organization embraced Sean; during one game, Big Papi emerged from his personal luxury box, in order to meet Sean and his brother Owen, giving them the thrill of a lifetime. He also enjoyed a private tour of Gillette Stadium, where Patriot's Special Teams Captain Matthew Slater met with him.

Not to be outdone by Boston, on June 1, 2022, the New York Mets dedicated that day's game as Sean MacDonnell Day. Sean started the game off by throwing out the first pitch to his dad, at Citi Field. Once again, he was invited to the announcer's booth where he met with all-time greats Keith Hernandez and Ron Darling.

Sean's Old Saybrook community has been unwavering in their dedication to their young native son. Sean has been celebrated by hundreds of people in his community including the Police and Fire Departments and local businesses. The Old Saybrook School System, including both Sean's and Owen teachers, have been committed and dedicated to bringing the gift of learning to these two boys, during these extremely difficult years.

The Ancient Order of the Hibernians Division 1 in Newport RI have supported him throughout these challenging times.

Sean's favorite place was Disney World, which was his idea of heaven.

He loved to learn and had many interests including steam locomotives, planes, and the space shuttle. He loved pretending that he and his brother were Lewis and Clark on an adventure. His true love was the military. He loved battleships and was a WWII aficionado.

Sean loved attending the cadet regimental review on Friday afternoons at the USCG Academy in New London CT. He stood tall, saluting as the Flag marched by and listening to the band play "Semper Paratus". In a ceremony at the USCGA on June fourth, 2022, Sean officially became an honorary Chief Petty Officer in his beloved US Coast Guard. Sean will always be part of the Coast Guard and the Academy, as he will be inurned in the Columbarium located on the campus.

On August first, 2022, General David H Berger, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, appointed him Honorary Marine, United States Marine Corps, for his "unyielding support and devotion to Corps and Country".

The family would like to thank Dr Natalie Collins MD, from the Jimmy Fund / Dana Farber Cancer Clinic, who remained at the helm with her crew, guiding Sean's medical care throughout this entire journey. They are also grateful to Dr Reza Rahbar MD, from Boston Children's Hospital and Dr Torunn Yock MD from the Proton Beam Radiation Center at Mass General Hospital. The family is also grateful to Connecticut Hospice, especially to the spiritual specialist Dana, and nurses Chuck and Mike who compassionately cared for Sean and his family and helped to ease them through this passage. While everyone who knew and loved Sean and his family are profoundly sad, we also know that we will all be together again someday, and until that time we will strive to have No Bad Days!

A Mass of Christian Burial at the Coast Guard Memorial Chapel at CGA in New London, CT will be held on Monday August 8, 2022 at 11AM. A private inurnment will follow at the Columbarium. As the services are taking place on a military base, attendance will be limited to family, and invited guests. A Celebration of Sean's Life, for all to attend, will be held on Tuesday August 9, 2022, from 12 noon to 3PM at the Elks Lodge, 142 Seaside Ave, Westbrook CT. For those who are unable to attend the observance in Westbrook, there will be a remembrance of Sean's life at The Hibernian Hall, 2 Wellington Ave, in Newport RI, at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the USCG Academy Alumni Association.

Arrangements are in the care of the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral home in Centerbrook. For more information, please visit <https://rwwfh.com>

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Ferrigno, Edward M.**

Edward M. Ferrigno, 75, of Barkhamsted, CT beloved husband of Susan K. Ferrigno, passed away peacefully Sunday, July 31, 2022, at his home. Son of the late Joseph W. Ferrigno, Jr. and Mary (Quinn) Ferrigno. Raised in West Hartford he loved the outdoors and during his adult years he enjoyed skiing, motorcycling, boating, fishing, hunting and golf. He graduated from Conard High School and worked for his father's business, the Joseph W. Ferrigno Construction Company, which led to his own career in homebuilding throughout the Farmington Valley area. His hard work ethic produced beautifully crafted homes to many in the community and in recent years he focused on land development. He was a member of the Central Connecticut Remote Control Club where he built and flew large model planes. Over all hobbies and interests, his greatest joy came with being around family. Spending time fishing with his granddaughter and watching soccer games gave great joy in his later years. His authentic personality and a heart of gold created deep bonds. Rooted with a genuine character, he lived a life that touched everyone around him. Besides his wife Susan, Ed is survived by his son Nicholas E. Ferrigno of Portland, OR; his daughter Angela S. Ferrigno and her partner Matthew Berry of Southbury; his grandchildren Caterina Mederios, and William, Nathan, and Charlotte Berry; his brothers William A. Ferrigno of Avon and Joseph W. Ferrigno III of Hong Kong; a sister Maryanne Ferrigno of Avon; and nieces and nephews William, Jr., Matthew, Joseph, Christina, James, Michelle, Elizabeth, and Victoria Ferrigno and Bowen Bai. Along with his deceased nephew Paul Ferrigno. His family will receive friends Sunday, August 7, 2022, from 3-6 PM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon. Contributions may be made in Ed's memory to the American Diabetes Association P.O. Box 7023 Merrifield, VA 22116-7023. For directions or condolences please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://carmonfuneralhome.com)

CARMON

Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Giller, Gordon M**

Gordon Milton Giller, 95, of Vernon Ct, passed away peacefully on July 15, 2022, of natural causes. Gordon was born on February 16, 1927, to Thure and Sarah Giller both immigrants from Stockholm, Sweden. Gordon is a veteran of the Korean War and served as a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force and Air National Guard.

The youngest of five children born in Worcester, Mass Gordon spent much of his youth in Rochester, New York, in his late teens he moved to East Hartford, CT. where he met his wife, Joan Virginia Denney.

The family moved to South Windsor in 1956 to a new home on Parkview Drive, where Gordon and Joan raised their five children. He enjoyed developing his property into an oasis of flower and vegetable gardens. He planted many varieties of fruit trees around the property and was always in the yard planting or watering.

Besides his passion for being in the dirt Gordon had many other hobbies and interests including hunting, fishing, bowling, stamp collecting, and woodworking. He was also an assistant troop leader for the Boy Scouts and loved his vintage 1955 Studebaker President.

Gordons first job was at Sigourney Tool in Hartford where he learned many skills as a draftsman and tool maker. Through hard work and determination Gordon became a member of the Standards Engineers Society in 1962. He was a respected employee at Veeder Root and later at Chandler Evans and established many systems for both companies.

Gordon has been a devoted and active member of the First United Methodist Church in Stafford Spring, CT. for many years. His faith and commitment to the Lord and the church community was one of the most important parts of his life besides his family. He established many close relationships with many members in the church whom he considered his brothers and sisters.

Gordon enjoyed and never turned down an invitation to be with any member of his family including birthdays, holidays, and summer Cape Cod vacations. Give him a date and time and for sure he would be there with a big smile and kind words for all. He always said grace before dinner at all the holidays, and his messages were always heartfelt and giving of all praise and glory to the Lord.

We would like to thank Bernadette, his CNA who assisted him in his home for the past two years until his transfer to the assisted living community in February. He really enjoyed and looked forward to her daily companionship. His last home was at the assisted living community, The Residence at Ferry Park in Rocky Hill, CT. He loved his apartment and all the staff that assisted him. We would like to thank his caregivers who took care of him over the past five months for their great care and for making him feel important each day.

Gordon was predeceased by his former wife Joan Virginia Giller and his son Russell Scott Giller. He is survived by son Michael and his wife Nancy, son Daniel and his wife Susan, son David and his wife Deirdre, daughter Julie Murphy and her husband Kevin. Gordon was blessed with six grandchildren; Holly, Shannon, Daniel, Chelsea, Kieran, and Braedon and six great grandchildren; Michael, Caiden, Cameron, Hunter, Skylar, and Greyson.

His memorial service will be August 27, 2022, at 10:00am at the First United Methodist Church, 8 Church Street, Stafford Springs, CT. Burial will follow in West Somers Cemetery in Somers, CT. Memorial donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church 8 Church Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076. To leave a condolence or memory online please visit: www.abeycremation.com

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OBITUARIES

Blish, Edwin A.

Edwin Allan Blish, 81, of Cocoa Beach, FL, departed this earth on July 28, 2022. Allan (Al or Big Al) was born in Marlborough Connecticut on June 8, 1941, to the late Sarah (Lord) Blish and E. Allan Blish. He shared his life with 3 beautiful sisters, Eleanor, Ruth and Dorothy. Al was a graduate of RHAM High School class of 1959.

Al was a master of many trades as he was a long-time figure in Marlborough before moving to Florida in 1985. His life was filled with a lot from running around the lake vacation spot his family owned (now Blish Memorial Park) on Lake Terramuggus, working for Arbor Acres driving truck, a master of many things but he loved working with a backhoe or bulldozer and used them to help build Route 2 that helped get people from Hartford to surrounding towns. Al also loved his time at a casino, he was a master gambler and not always winning but loved the experience. He had many friends along the way, that helped him and guided him along his life journey. It was his life, and he did it 'My Way' as Frank Sinatra said.

Al is survived by his loving sons, Karl Blish of Lake Helen FL, David Blish (Lyne) of Marlborough CT, Jon (Lynne) Goulding of Cocoa Beach and Christopher (Jason Jacobs) Blish of West Hartford CT, a loving sister Eleanor Button of Hebron, CT, three special granddaughters Jasmine (Anthony) Messina of Glastonbury CT, Brandy Blish of Marlborough, and Megan (Jeff) Jones of Melbourne FL, his great grandson Angelo Messina of Glastonbury, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first love Joyce (Larson) Blish, his second love Martha (Martucci) Blish and his loving companion of 45 years Sharon (Johansen) Savage, sisters Ruth Gidley and Dorothy West and his son Paul Goulding.

There will be no calling hours, we will have a graveside service September 17 at 11AM in Marlboro Cemetery, with a reception after at Blish Park. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in his memory to the charity of your choice or Roy B. Pettingill Ambulance Association, c/o Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, CT 06447 To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

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Monroe, David A.

Mr. David A. Monroe was born March 25, 1950, in Palatka, Florida. He was the fourth child born to Walter E. Monroe, Sr. and Pancena Monroe. Surrounded by family, he peacefully departed July 30, 2022, in his home, Hartford, Connecticut. He was the husband of Arleen Monroe. They shared 40 years of marriage together.

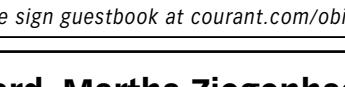
David was an active member and Deacon of The First Cathedral of Bloomfield, Connecticut. He was driven by faith and the commitment to serve. A leader, advocate, servant, and community activist, David lived a full life with a beautiful spirit and generosity.

David was an educator. He attended Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University, University of Hartford, and University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Highly educated, he frequently challenged his children to surpass his multiple degrees and teach him something new, as they developed through adulthood. Known by many as "Doc" or "Professor," he was committed to a life of educating others and influencing all who encountered him to diversify their perspective and learn something new daily.

His beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of his children, Marlon Monroe, Dia Monroe, Taryn Monroe, Darissa Monroe, and Jordan Monroe, and Mark Redden, as well as his loving wife, Arleen Monroe; three beautiful grandchildren, Marlon Monroe, Jr., Marlene Monroe, and Ava Monroe; brothers Reverend Walter Monroe, Jr., Joseph Monroe; sisters Brenda Monroe-Fitzpatrick, and late Mary Alice White; devoted family members, and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and former students.

He will always be remembered for his contagious laugh, bountiful knowledge, and righteous spirit. He will be forever missed!

David's family will celebrate his life 11am on Monday August 8, 2022, at The First Cathedral, 1151 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield, CT. The family will receive friends prior from 10am-11am. Interment will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield, CT.



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Ward, Martha Ziegenhagen

We are broken hearted to announce the death of Martha (Ziegenhagen) Ward, 65, of New Britain, CT. Martha left us on Aug. 2, 2022 at the Hospital of Central CT, where she battled major health issues. Martha was born and raised in New Britain and made her own family with her husband Frederick Ward, and her beloved son Joseph Ward, who

was her pride and joy. She was a wonderful mother who was always there when Joey needed her and so to, Joey and Fred for her. She was a loving, caring and always giving wife, mother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. She had been employed in Food Service at Central Connecticut State University. Martha is survived by her husband Frederick Ward, her son Joseph Ward, brother Michael Ziegenhagen, Sr. and his wife Margaret of New Britain, two nephews, Michael Ziegenhagen, Jr. and his wife Hillary of Hudson, New York, Brian Ziegenhagen and his wife Kelly (Bristol) of Avon and a niece Katie Adams and her husband Alex of West Hartford, CT, three great nephews Wyatt Ziegenhagen and Samuel and Dean Bristol, and a great niece Lucy Adams; two cousins, William Ziegenhagen and wife, Deb of Colchester, CT and Rosemarie Pelletier of Plainville, CT. All we want to thank the doctors and nurses, CNA's, café buddies and all who lovingly cared for Martha. Friends and family are invited to a Prayer Service on Saturday (Aug 6th) at 10:00 AM at the Farrell Funeral Home, 110 Franklin Square New Britain. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, 1141 Stanley Street New Britain. Visitation will be held Saturday morning from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. To send a condolence, please visit www.FarrellFuneralHome.com.



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Taylor, Craig L.

Craig L. Taylor was a passionate and caring father, brother, and friend. He left this world on February 17, 2022, after battling a lengthy journey with respiratory disorders at the age of 68.

He was born to the late Lewis Taylor Jr. and Delores (Post) Taylor of East Hartford, Connecticut. After graduating from Penney High School of East Hartford in 1971, he pursued a career path over the decades as a machinist with various companies throughout Connecticut. Becoming a father was the main job he took a lot of pride and enjoyment in over the years.

Craig loved spending time in Long Island Sound boating and off shore fishing regularly during the summer months, while also riding his Harley for jaunts around the state when staying on land. Winter months didn't keep him inside either. He enjoyed snowmobiling, skiing, and making regular visits to Vermont, sharing these experiences with friends and family along the way.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his loving daughter, Alexis Taylor; sisters, Sharon Caputo and her husband Peter of Connecticut and Linda Listro of Maryland; along with three nieces and one nephew. Craig is also survived by special and close friends; Ann and the late Bob Burney, Bill and Linda McGaw, Jimmy Chiffer and John Burney.

Family and friends may call on the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 W. Center St., Manchester, on Thursday, August 11, 2022, from 4-7 p. m. with a funeral home service immediately following. For online condolences, please visit [www.tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://tierneyfuneralhome.com).

JOHN F.
Tierney

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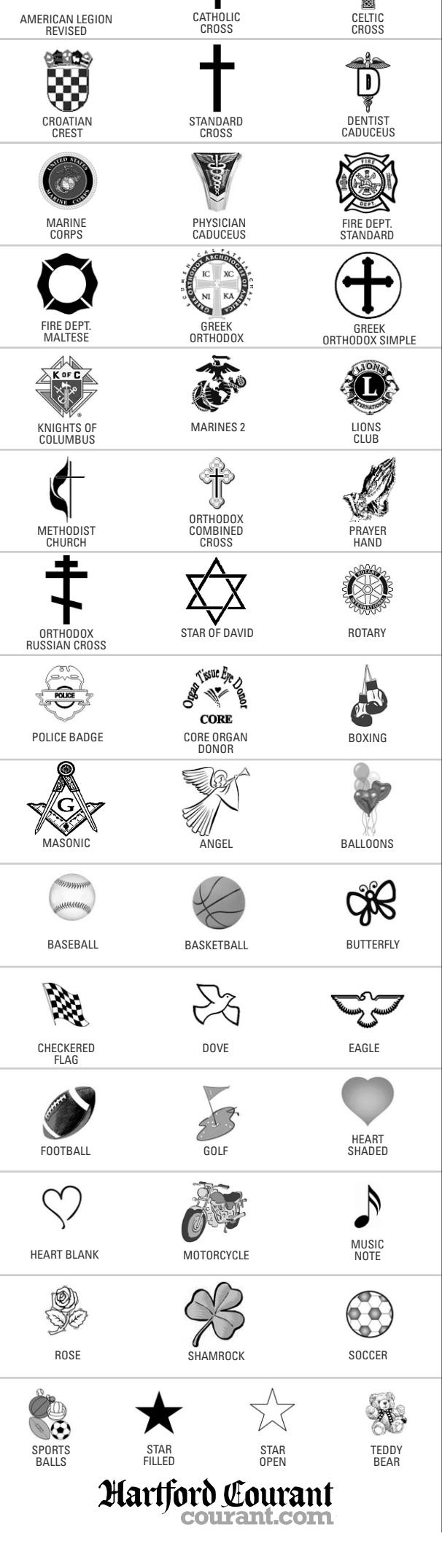
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